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CHAMBERS UK 2023

# The Leading Lawyers and Law Firms in the UK

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Immigration

How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings)

include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

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UK-wide Business

Immigration: Business	Immigration: Business	Immigration: Business
<b>Leading Firms</b>	<b>Senior Statespeople and Eminent Practitioners</b>	
<b>Band 1</b>	<b>Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners</b>	<b>Trott Philip</b> <i>Vanessa Ganguin Immigration Law (ORL) ◇</i>
Kingsley Napley LLP	<b>Kirk Graeme</b> <i>Ellisons Solicitors (Incorporating Gross (ORL) ◇</i>	<b>Eminent Practitioners</b>
Laura Devine Immigration	<b>Magrath Chris</b> <i>Magrath Sheldrick LLP</i>	<b>Devine Laura</b> <i>Laura Devine Immigration</i>
<b>Band 2</b>	<b>Leading Individuals</b>	
Bates Wells	<b>Band 1</b>	<b>El-Chamaa Hazar</b> <i>Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP</i>
Lewis Silkin	<b>Barrett-Brown Sophie</b> <i>Laura Devine Immigration</i>	<b>Garcia Kerry</b> <i>Stevens &amp; Bolton LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Magrath Sheldrick LLP	<b>Carter Nichola</b> <i>Carter Thomas Solicitors</i>	<b>Goldfarb Tanya</b> <i>Bindmans LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Mishcon de Reya LLP	<b>Onslow-Cole Julia</b> <i>Fragomen LLP</i>	<b>Jones Owen</b> <i>Sheridans</i>
Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP	<b>Rollason Nicolas</b> <i>Kingsley Napley LLP</i>	<b>Lloyd Glyn</b> <i>Newfields</i>
<b>Band 3</b>	<b>Band 2</b>	<b>Longdon Marcia</b> <i>Kingsley Napley LLP</i>
Carter Thomas Solicitors	<b>Gya Williams Natasha</b> <i>Gya Williams Immigration</i>	<b>Mace Annabel</b> <i>Squire Patton Boggs</i>
Charles Russell Speechlys	<b>Osborne Andrew</b> <i>Lewis Silkin</i>	<b>McIndoe Gary</b> <i>Latitude Law (ORL) ◇</i>
Fragomen LLP	<b>Patel Chetal</b> <i>Bates Wells</i>	<b>Morris Anne</b> <i>DavidsonMorris (ORL) ◇</i>
Gya Williams Immigration	<b>Perrott James</b> <i>Mayer Brown International LLP (ORL) ◇</i>	<b>Okoeva Diana</b> <i>Clintons (ORL) ◇</i>
Osborne Clarke LLP	<b>Sheldrick Ben</b> <i>Magrath Sheldrick LLP</i>	<b>Rahman Kamal</b> <i>Mishcon de Reya LLP</i>
Squire Patton Boggs	<b>Band 3</b>	<b>Sekine Yuichi</b> <i>Bird &amp; Bird (ORL) ◇</i>
<b>Band 4</b>	<b>Brett Young Tom</b> <i>VWV (ORL) ◇</i>	<b>Sian Supinder</b> <i>Lewis Silkin</i>
Baker McKenzie	<b>Carey Rose</b> <i>Charles Russell Speechlys</i>	<b>Up-and-coming individuals</b>
Doyle Clayton	<b>Chell Natasha</b> <i>Laura Devine Immigration</i>	<b>Mewies Flora</b> <i>Ward Hadaway LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Eversheds Sutherland	<b>de Atouguia Anita</b> <i>Doyle Clayton *</i>	<b>Star associates</b>
Newfields	<b>de Sousa Ilda</b> <i>Kingsley Napley LLP</i>	<b>Bostock Nicolette</b> <i>Laura Devine Immigration</i>
Sheridans	<b>Evlogidis Tracy</b> <i>Withers LLP (ORL) ◇</i>	<b>Hunt Joanna</b> <i>Fieldfisher (ORL) ◇</i>
Wright Hassall LLP	<b>Ganguin Vanessa</b> <i>Vanessa Ganguin Immigration Law (ORL) ◇</i>	<b>Associates to watch</b>
<i>* Indicates individual with profile.</i>	<b>Haque Tony</b> <i>Baker McKenzie</i>	<b>Allen Yvette</b> <i>Morgan, Lewis &amp; Bockius LLP (ORL) ◇ *</i>
<i>◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</i>	<b>Jones Gavin</b> <i>Osborne Clarke LLP</i>	<b>Giam Osheenn</b> <i>Squire Patton Boggs</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>	<b>Saini Pat</b> <i>Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP</i>	<b>Hanrahan-Soar Naomi</b> <i>Lewis Silkin</i>
<b>Band 1</b>	<b>Band 4</b>	<b>Houchill Robert</b> <i>Kingsley Napley LLP</i>
<b>Kingsley Napley LLP</b>	<b>Appadu Hans Sok</b> <i>OTS Solicitors (ORL) ◇</i>	<b>Loader Natalie</b> <i>Mishcon de Reya LLP</i>
<b>What the team is known for</b> Kingsley Napley has a stellar reputation for advising corporate clients on complex business immigration matters. The firm frequently assists with Tier 2 sponsorship applications. It is additionally able to offer private individuals and employers expert advice on immigration issues arising from corporate mergers and overseas expansion. It represents clients in the technology, entertainment and energy industries, among others.	<b>Aziz Tamana</b> <i>Duncan Lewis Solicitors (ORL) ◇ *</i>	<b>McKearney Gillian</b> <i>Fieldfisher (ORL) ◇</i>
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Barth Philip</b> <i>Michelmores LLP (ORL) ◇</i>	<b>Sciberras Francesca</b> <i>Laura Devine Immigration</i>
<i>"The team at Kingsley Napley is very strong throughout: they're all knowledgeable and extremely responsive to queries."</i>	<b>Bradbury Kathryn</b> <i>Payne Hicks Beach LLP (ORL) ◇</i>	<b>Shanghavi Neil</b> <i>Mishcon de Reya LLP</i>
<i>"The client service is excellent – top-notch."</i>	<b>Brooksbank Emma</b> <i>Freeths LLP (ORL) ◇ *</i>	<b>Sinha Anushka</b> <i>Deloitte Legal (ORL) ◇</i>
<i>"The team is obviously very knowledgeable and offers very commercial and practical advice on how to achieve our goals."</i>	<b>Chaimovic Jonathan</b> <i>Clyde &amp; Co LLP (ORL) ◇ *</i>	<b>Vowden Kim</b> <i>Kingsley Napley LLP</i>
<i>"Kingsley Napley has an excellent reputation within the immigration field."</i>	<b>Dorney John</b> <i>DWF (ORL) ◇</i>	
<i>"The team provides expert advice in a timely manner and always has the answer for our complex cases."</i>		
<b>Notable practitioners</b>		

Band 1

Kingsley Napley LLP

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Strengths

*"The team at Kingsley Napley is very strong throughout: they're all knowledgeable and extremely responsive to queries."*

*"The client service is excellent – top-notch."*

*"The team is obviously very knowledgeable and offers very commercial and practical advice on how to achieve our goals."*

*"Kingsley Napley has an excellent reputation within the immigration field."*

*"The team provides expert advice in a timely manner and always has the answer for our complex cases."*

Notable practitioners

Head of department **Nicolas Rollason** centres his highly acclaimed business immigration practice on Tier 2 sponsorship licence matters. He acts for a wide range of international clients and continues to advise them on immigration strategy. **Strengths:** *"I am a big fan of Nicolas Rollason. He provides strategic advice which clients appreciate."* **Ilda de Sousa** is able to draw on extensive experience to advise clients on complex Tier 2 sponsor registrations and compliance issues. She continues to represent an impressive range of domestic and international businesses. **Strengths:** *"She has the patience of a saint and an encyclopaedic knowledge of immigration law."* *"Ilda de Sousa has tremendous patience with our question and is impressively responsive."* *"She is an intelligent and commercially aware lawyer. Her knowledge of the technical aspects of the ever-changing*

*immigration system is impressive."* **Marcia Longdon** is skilled in advising on Tier 2 sponsor licence matters. She counsels a range of clients including gaming, technology and architecture businesses. **Robert Houchill** represents corporate clients on an array of immigration and nationality matters. He has notable experience handling applications for visas and Tier 2 sponsor licences ahead of major sporting events and competitions. **Strengths:** *"Robert Houchill is very knowledgeable and responsive."* **Kim Vowden** acts for clients across a range of sectors, including those active in the finance, hospitality and sports sectors. He advises on Tier 1 and 2 visa applications, with further experience assisting clients with post-Brexit immigration changes. **Strengths:** *"Kim Vowden always advises in a succinct and understandable way."*

### Laura Devine Immigration

**What the team is known for** Laura Devine Immigration is highly regarded for its business immigration advice to international businesses, SMEs and senior executives. The firm regularly advises clients looking to obtain sponsor licences, as well as assisting on compliance matters for those that already have a licence. Of particular note is the US immigration expertise on offer in cooperation with the firm's New York office. The team also provides training and seminars for clients on the impact of Brexit and on the EU settlement scheme.

#### Strengths

"Laura Devine Immigration is brilliant, and has created an awesome team in both the UK and US."

"The lawyers at Laura Devine Immigration are knowledgeable, trustworthy and responsive."

"Laura Devine Immigration is a fabulous firm and is exceptional in its work."

"The team always makes the most complex of issues simple and easy to understand and ensures the steps required are understood by all parties."

**Work highlights** Laura Devine Immigration assisted an aerospace military defence client with securing an urgent sponsor licence application and associated migration sponsorships.

#### Notable practitioners

Managing partner **Laura Devine** is a leading figure in the field of business immigration. She is dual-qualified in the UK and the USA and brings a depth of expertise in US-related immigration issues. **Strengths:**

"Laura Devine is incredibly savvy and smart." **Sophie Barrett-Brown** has a strong practice spanning immigration and nationality law. Her work includes acting for overseas companies seeking to expand into the UK, as well as those undergoing major corporate restructures that may affect their sponsor licences.

**Strengths:** "She is a fantastic lawyer." "Sophie Barrett-Brown is exceptionally responsive, knowledgeable and pragmatic." **Natasha Chell** handles corporate immigration issues, including Tier 2 applications and sponsor licences for clients spanning the insurance, financial services and legal sectors. Immigration audits and compliance are another noted area of focus. **Strengths:** "Natasha Chell is extremely responsive to our needs and provides solutions quickly and professionally."

**Francesca Sciberras** advises clients on a range of business immigration issues, with particular strength in matters involving EU nationals working in the UK and sponsor licence applications. **Strengths:** "Francesca Sciberras is an excellent communicator and highly responsive. I know that I am in safe hands whenever I contact her." "She takes the time to explain procedures, has good commercial awareness and provides sound, practical solutions."

"She is quick, responsive and knowledgeable." **Nicolette Bostock** works with clients across Tier 2 and Tier 5 sponsorship matters, as well as Tier 4 student visa applications. She is also notable for her advice on the EU Settlement Scheme. **Strengths:** "Nicolette Bostock provides clear advice that is easily understood across all areas of the business. She is very responsive and knowledgeable. She is a superstar." "She is very knowledgeable and provides really helpful insights."

**Band 2**

**Bates Wells**

**What the team is known for** Bates Wells has a wealth of experience providing bespoke solutions for the full range of business immigration matters, including

Tier 2 sponsorship matters, Tier 5 visa applications and Brexit-related issues. The firm continues to advise multinational corporations and well-known domestic businesses, as well as charities and other non-profit organisations. It also works for senior employees on their immigration matters.

#### Strengths

"The team provides helpful and solution-oriented advice."

"Bates Wells is an excellent outfit and understands the time pressures involved."

"The team responds exceptionally quickly and keeps us updated on progress with our matters."

"The team is very astute to the clients' businesses, factoring individual nuances into its pragmatic and commercial advice."

"The lawyers at Bates Wells are extremely responsive and provide trustworthy advice."

#### Notable practitioners

**Chetal Patel** has a strong reputation in the market for her work in the charity and not-for-profit sector. She also acts for large domestic and international companies in need of assistance with Tier 2 sponsorship matters. **Strengths:** "She responded to every question or situation in a timely fashion which demonstrated the depth of her knowledge in all areas of immigration." "Chetal Patel provides pragmatic advice at all times and aligns this advice to the nuances of the organisation."

**Lewis Silkin**

**What the team is known for** Lewis Silkin offers a high-quality team with a distinguished business immigration offering. It has extensive experience advising international and domestic businesses from a variety of sectors including law, technology and retail. The department is particularly noted for its expertise advising prominent football clubs and their players on immigration matters. The firm regularly works with businesses on sponsor licence applications, training programmes, compliance and audits. **Strengths:**

"Lewis Silkin's lawyers are some of the most knowledgeable and creative minds to address clients' complex immigration matters."

"The team provides reliable and sound advice, and always replies in a timely manner."

**Work highlights** Lewis Silkin advised an IT company based in Northern Ireland on obtaining its sponsor licence and on the immigration applications for new hires.

#### Notable practitioners

**Andrew Osborne** is head of Lewis Silkin's Immigration practice. He is frequently called upon by clients to handle Tier 2 visas and work permits for high-profile individuals, particularly in the sports arena. He often assists professional football players with their applications for leave to remain. **Strengths:** "Andrew Osborne is a safe pair of hands." "He is a very skilled solicitor." **Supinder Sian** advises leading corporates on their global mobility issues, including visa applications for permanent and temporary workers. He has niche expertise in the immigration issues faced by sports sector clients. **Strengths:** "Supinder Sian is an excellent adviser." **Naomi Hanrahan-Soar** works with corporate clients on a full range of matters including sponsor licence applications and renewals. She is recognised for her ability to advise on issues at the intersection of employment and immigration law.

**Magrath Sheldrick LLP**

**What the team is known for** Magrath Sheldrick has a strong immigration team advising high-profile businesses across many areas of immigration law, with noted expertise working with clients in the financial services and entertainment sectors. The London team and its clients benefit from the expertise of the firm's immigration specialists based in New York and San Francisco. The firm continues to advise US employers and foreign executives on intra-company transfers, sponsor licence issues and immigration compliance.

**Strengths**

"Magrath Sheldrick provides excellent, clear and straightforward advice."

"The lawyers are knowledgeable about complex global immigration issues as well as those in the UK."

"The team is exceedingly reactive and proactive – on the occasion where we needed immediate responses, the team was superb in its swift response."

#### Notable practitioners

Founding partner **Chris Magrath** is a dual-qualified US and UK lawyer who works on a full range of inbound immigration matters. His clients include businesses in the financial services sector, as well as senior employees. **Strengths:** "Chris Magrath is very knowledgeable and approachable." **Ben Sheldrick** is head of department at Magrath Sheldrick. He is widely considered an expert on immigration law and regularly works for large international businesses on their most important matters. His advice is sought on issues including strategic advice on Brexit and applications under the EU Settlement Scheme. **Strengths:** "Ben Sheldrick's knowledge is second to none."

#### Strengths

"The team is very thorough and looks into every option."

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#### Mishcon de Reya LLP

**What the team is known for** Mishcon de Reya is a leading firm for international technology and media clients, as well as individual business people. It continues to advise corporate clients on Tier 2 visa and Tier 5 visa applications. It also acts for entrepreneurs on a full range of business and personal immigration matters. The firm has notable expertise handling the transfer of employees from the USA to the UK.

#### Strengths

"Mishcon de Reya's team is organised and always on top of things – a five-star service."

"The team has great communication skills and an intensive knowledge of immigration law."

"The team is very thorough and looks into every option."

#### Notable practitioners

**Kamal Rahman** heads the immigration group at Mishcon de Reya. Her work for companies includes advice on obtaining Tier 2 sponsor licences, as well as assisting with general compliance. She also advises high net worth individuals on complex immigration matters. **Strengths:** "Kamal Rahman is a strategist and takes in the big picture." **Natalie Loader** is recognised for her representation of companies and skilled workers seeking entry or leave to remain in the UK. She is adept at handling a range of business immigration matters including, ICT sponsorship applications, Tier 5 applications and legal right to work checks. **Strengths:** "Whenever I need her, she always responds quickly and with a high level of professionalism." "Natalie Loader is amazing – a walking encyclopaedia!" "She is a bright, personable and very thorough individual who assists with the most complex of immigration applications." **Neil Shanghavi** often acts for US companies seeking to transfer employees to the UK. Other areas of work include Tier 2 sponsor

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licences and Brexit planning. **Strengths:** “Neil Shanghavi is always solution-oriented and offers strategic insights into immigration issues.”

### Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP

**What the team is known for** Penningtons Manches Cooper continues to be known for its stellar work in the education sector, advising a range of clients including universities, schools and other educational institutions on Brexit planning and sponsor licence issues. It also provides visa and immigration services to multinational corporations. The team is able to utilise the firm’s education, corporate and employment teams to provide a complete service to clients. The firm has notable expertise in relation to India, including advising large Indian companies on the transfer of sponsored employees to the UK.

#### Strengths

“Everyone on the team is helpful – they always have solutions and explain things in a very understandable way.”

“The team is exceptional and has a very good understanding of immigration-related matters.”

“Matters are handled in a very responsive and speedy manner, making the process seamless for us.”

**Work highlights** Penningtons Manches Cooper acted for an international charity on an urgent application to renew its lapsed sponsor licence.

#### Notable practitioners

**Pat Saini** leads the immigration team at Penningtons Manches Cooper and is adept at offering strategic immigration advice to education sector clients. Her advice to these clients is comprehensive, covering a broad range of issues including Brexit preparation, sponsor licence applications and audits. **Strengths:** “Pat Saini has fantastic knowledge of the sector and is very hands-on.” **Hazar El-Chamaa** is recognised for her expertise in the education sector, with clients including universities, independent schools and private education providers. She offers particular strength in matters relating to sponsorships, including licensing and compliance issues.

**Strengths:** “She is a brilliant adviser and a pleasure to work with.” “Hazar El-Chamaa has tremendous knowledge in the field, and is incredibly committed to helping clients.”

### Band 3

### Carter Thomas Solicitors

**What the team is known for** Carter Thomas Solicitors is a leading education sector-focused practice that advises universities, schools and academics. The team works on a full range of issues important in that sector including sponsor licence applications and compliance issues. It also works with corporate clients, and entrepreneurs seeking visas.

#### Notable practitioners

**Nichola Carter** has a leading reputation for her advice to education sector clients on immigration matters. She also works with corporate clients and has a practice that covers a broad spectrum, including sponsor licence issues and advice on the EU Settlement Scheme. **Strengths:** “Nichola Carter is a very impressive lawyer.”

### Charles Russell Speechlys

**What the team is known for** Charles Russell Speechlys has a growing reputation in the business immigration field, offering expertise to a wide range of companies including well-known restaurant

chains and retail brands. The firm is routinely called upon to advise on Tier 2 sponsor licence issues and compliance, Tier 1 visa applications and Brexit planning.

#### Strengths

“Charles Russell Speechlys offers very quick responses, and all communication and explanations are very clear.”

“The team is dedicated to finding an outcome to work for all parties – both the employees and the organisation – which is extremely useful and appreciated.”

**Work highlights** Charles Russell Speechlys advised the University of London on immigration matters for staff and students, including sponsor compliance issues.

#### Notable practitioners

**Rose Carey** heads Charles Russell Speechlys’ immigration group. She works closely with household-name clients to assist with sponsor licence applications and to provide Brexit-related advice. Other areas of work include preparing companies for audits by UKVI. **Strengths:** “Rose Carey shares a great depth of knowledge and is very approachable.”

### Fragomen LLP

**What the team is known for** Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy offers a sophisticated business immigration practice with an all-encompassing commercial offering. It regularly draws on its impressive resources and ability to undertake a full range of work to suit the mobility needs of multinational corporations. The firm is recommended for its support to clients on compliance issues and for its ability to carry out large-scale compliance exercises.

#### Strengths

“The team is very knowledgeable and provides quick, concise information.”

“The team provides excellent and timely advice on nuanced individual cases which address the complexities of the law while being digestible for those not from a legal background.”

“The team understands our strategic business requirements and ensures advice is given in that context, and is solution-focused.”

“They take a thoughtful, compliant and commercial approach to complex immigration matters, which makes them a fantastic partner.”

#### Notable practitioners

**Julia Onslow-Cole** receives accolades for her unique practice, which encompasses government advisory work, compliance in relation to business immigration, and crisis management. She has considerable experience liaising with Border Force and a deep understanding of immigration law at both a UK and EU level. **Strengths:** “Julia Onslow-Cole is a truly outstanding operator. She is hugely experienced, works relentlessly for her clients and delivers fantastic results.”

### Gya Williams Immigration

**What the team is known for** Gya Williams Immigration is noted for its impressive immigration practice that offers extensive support to businesses from the creative and shipping industries, among others. The team has noteworthy experience supporting on matters related to visa applications as well as advising on PBS sponsorship compliance and management. It provides assistance to high net worth individuals as well as EU nationals and professionals nationwide.

#### Strengths

“The team at Gya Williams Immigration provides an excellent service that focuses on the unique needs of

the client.”

“The team is knowledgeable, experienced, diligent and very attentive to detail.”

“Gya Williams Immigration provides excellent, prompt and secure advice.”

#### Notable practitioners

**Natasha Gya Williams** is an expert on all aspects of the points-based system, and is sought out by individuals and corporate clients for advice on complex immigration matters. In particular, she is recommended for her understanding of the Home Office and its policies. **Strengths:** “Natasha Gya Williams really puts her clients’ needs first and her attention to detail is wonderful.” “Her professional expertise and ability to appreciate the wider picture has been invaluable. She invests time to understand the nuances of the case, which enables her to provide tailored advice.” “She is very helpful in explaining everything to ensure I understand the process.”

### Osborne Clarke LLP

**What the team is known for** Osborne Clarke offers a notable immigration team with considerable experience supporting multinational clients with strategic expansion of operations through existing licence management. The team is adept at providing immigration advice to the staff of corporate clients on visa applications and relocation support.

#### Strengths

“The team understands what we are trying to achieve and tailors its advice accordingly.”

“Commercial awareness is one of Osborne Clarke’s particular strengths.”

**Work highlights** Osborne Clarke assists Vertical Aerospace with a range of global mobility issues, including visas for its workforce, compliance, global agile working and the coordination of work across multiple jurisdictions.

#### Notable practitioners

**Gavin Jones** heads the immigration team at Osborne Clarke. He has an active business immigration practice advising businesses on international staff transfers, strategic planning and compliance, and inward investment into the UK. **Strengths:** “Gavin Jones is always extremely helpful and responsive. He tailors his advice in a very user-friendly yet professional way.”

### Squire Patton Boggs

**What the team is known for** Squire Patton Boggs has a full-service business immigration practice that frequently acts for multinationals and SMEs. The team capably handle multi-jurisdictional projects through collaboration with the firm’s international offices. The firm provides clients with ongoing training and support on Brexit-related immigration matters and workforce issues.

#### Strengths

“The team has a helpful mindset: it thinks for and ahead of its clients’ needs and will redirect towards more positive outcomes.”

“They cut straight to the point and provide advice in a straightforward way. They have the knowledge and expertise to help clients navigate the challenging and ever-changing immigration rules.”

“The team is always very responsive, communicative and clear and concise with its advice.”

“Using Squire Patton Boggs is always a reassuring experience. The team provides a satisfying blend of intellectual know-how, calm demeanour and pragmatic solutions.”

#### Notable practitioners

**Annabel Mace** is a seasoned immigration partner

with considerable expertise advising companies on the transfer of employees to the UK and sponsor licence compliance. **Strengths:** “Annabel Mace is a subject-matter expert and combines this with acute commercial awareness to give advice which is sound, clear and, most importantly, practical.” “She is able to think strategically and create solutions for her clients.” **Osheenn Giam** assists clients with immigration issues ranging from sponsor licence applications and Home Office audits to Tier 5 temporary worker transfers. **Strengths:** “She is responsive, professional and has guided us through difficult scenarios.” “Osheenn Giam provides excellent service and regularly goes above and beyond to help. She is proactive and hugely supportive and we cannot recommend her highly enough.”

#### Band 4

##### Baker McKenzie

**What the team is known for** Baker McKenzie's immigration and mobility team in London is well positioned to service the needs of multinational companies thanks to the firm's international reach. The team frequently advises on the immigration aspects of operational transfers as well as assisting with new rules on EU movement post-Brexit. It also supports clients with visa applications and extensions and issues around sponsorship requirements. The team's client base covers those active in the technology, media and financial sectors, among others.

##### Strengths

“The technical knowledge Baker McKenzie provides is always comprehensive and allows us to navigate through some challenging matters.”

“Timely, reliable and professional advice is always given by the lawyers at Baker McKenzie.”

##### Notable practitioners

**Tony Haque** leads Baker McKenzie's immigration and mobility practice in the UK. He is known for working with large corporate clients on their immigration and mobility issues. He is well versed in Tier 2 visa applications and sponsor licence compliance. Tony has strong cross-border capabilities. **Strengths:** “Tony Haque is very astute and goes to extra lengths for clients.” “He is agile, looks into all the right issues and is able to put us in touch with local experts in other jurisdictions.”

##### Doyle Clayton

**What the team is known for** Doyle Clayton offers advice across the full range of UK immigration matters, including skilled worker visas and sponsorship licensing. The team acts for both multinational and domestic clients, including those in the technology, education and automotive sectors.

##### Strengths

“The advice given by Doyle Clayton is always clear and concise.”

“The team is very fast to respond to questions, and always provides in-depth answers.”

“Doyle Clayton gives clear, up-to-date information and advice in order to help clients navigate the complexities of immigration issues. The team is great at giving alternative solutions to challenges clients may face.”

##### Notable practitioners

**Anita de Atouguia** (see p.738) heads up Doyle Clayton's immigration practice. She advises corporates and individuals on a range of business immigration matters. She has significant experience in sponsor licence issues and Tier 4 and 5 visa applications.

**Strengths:** “Anita de Atouguia just ‘gets it’. She is very easy to deal with, has very good client-care skills and is able to translate complex matters in a simple way that is easy for businesses to follow.” “She is very helpful and responsive and always able to help with any queries we have.” “She is very reliable and effectively takes care of the process from start to finish.”

##### Eversheds Sutherland

**What the team is known for** Eversheds Sutherland draws on expertise in both employment and immigration law to offer a comprehensive business immigration service to domestic and international clients. The firm supports large businesses on sponsor licence applications, audits and compliance. Brexit-related matters are another area of strength for the team, including advice to corporate clients on the status of their EEA workers.

##### Strengths

“Eversheds Sutherland's service levels are immaculate, the deadlines are always hit, and where additional detail or support is required the team pull a plan together to deliver irrespective of the complexity.”

“The team is very responsive, flexible and extremely knowledgeable in the area of immigration.”

“Eversheds Sutherland's lawyers provide excellent guidance.”

“The team shows great expertise and problem-solving in complex matters.”

**Work highlights** Eversheds Sutherland provided The University of Sheffield with a weekly immigration advice help line for staff and assisted with immigration compliance.

##### Notable practitioners

Audrey Elliott heads the firm's immigration practice and is a key contact.

##### Newfields

**What the team is known for** Newfields is a boutique business immigration law firm with notable strength in sponsor licensing and sports visas. Clients include major sporting bodies, consumer goods companies and governments. The firm has additional expertise handling EU-related immigration law, including settlement scheme matters.

##### Strengths

“Newfields is a friendly, approachable, responsive and knowledgeable firm.”

“The team is always quick to respond to queries.”

“Everyone at Newfields is extremely knowledgeable and helpful. The team explains issues in a way that is easy for us to grasp.”

**Work highlights** Newfields acted for Exeter Rugby on visa applications for players in both the men's and women's teams. The firm also assisted with applications for family members of the players.

##### Notable practitioners

**Glyn Lloyd** regularly assists high-profile sporting bodies and personalities with complex visa requirements and sponsor licensing. He also acts for clients in the insurance and consumer goods sector, as well as governmental bodies. **Strengths:** “Glyn Lloyd is a very safe pair of hands and very easy to work with.”

##### Sheridans

**What the team is known for** Sheridans has a compact immigration team with notable experience advising corporate clients and individuals seeking to secure their immigration status under the points-based system. Clients are drawn from the media and technology sectors, and the team frequently advises them on sponsor licence applications and compli-

ance, and applications under Tier 5.

##### Strengths

“Everyone we have worked with at Sheridans has been very knowledgeable.”

“Sheridans offers a user-friendly and practical approach to fact gathering.”

**Work highlights** Sheridans advised a company in the telecommunications sector on the transfer of employees from one sponsorship licence to another as well as compliance matters.

##### Notable practitioners

Head of department **Owen Jones** offers broad experience in commercial immigration law. Areas of focus include international transfers of senior employees to the UK, Tier 2 sponsor licence compliance and advice on immigration issues affecting EU national workers. **Strengths:** “Owen Jones is a really knowledgeable lawyer.”

##### Wright Hassall LLP

**What the team is known for** Wright Hassall offers extensive support on matters involving the intersection of employment and immigration law. It regularly assists clients from a varied pool of sectors including the financial services, retail, education and manufacturing industries. The team adeptly advises on sponsor management and compliance, Brexit transition support and conducting audits of HR systems.

##### Strengths

“Wright Hassall has highly qualified, talented and experienced lawyers to deal with complex and sophisticated matters.”

##### Notable practitioners

Tracie Udall is a key contact.

#### Other Ranked Lawyers

**Yvette Allen** (see p.737) assists clients with a range of business immigration matters, including advice on the implications of Brexit and travel restrictions. She also acts on sponsor compliance issues, with clients across healthcare, entertainment and finance sectors, among others.

##### Strengths:

“Yvette Allen is a very organised, pragmatic and reliable counsel.”

“She provides an excellent service to clients, is approachable and gives guidance which is clear, concise and easy to understand.”

**Hans Sok Appadu** of OTS Solicitors is noted for his business immigration work for startups and larger corporate clients. He is well versed in a wide range of matters, including sponsor licence applications for sportspeople. He is adept at advising on the implications of Brexit for clients' hiring practices.

##### Strengths:

“He is knowledgeable, professional and a safe pair of hands for all immigration matters.”

“He is really hard-working, and always wants what is best for his clients.”

**Tamana Aziz** (see p.737) of Duncan Lewis Solicitors advises business on applications for sponsor licences, as well as helping with the management of those licences. She is often instructed by clients in the hospitality and food industries.

##### Strengths:

“She always provides great help to people needing legal assistance.”

**Philip Barth** heads Michelmores' immigration practice and enjoys a varied client base, with his clientele including entertainment companies and breweries.

He has extensive experience in sponsor licensing and compliance matters as well as advising on Brexit-related issues.

**Strengths:**

*"Philip Barth is an excellent lawyer."*

**Kathryn Bradbury** of Payne Hicks Beach LLP comes recommended for her work with international entrepreneurs looking to start businesses in the UK. She also works with businesses seeking to obtain sponsor licences, as well as helping those clients with their employees' immigration issues.

**Strengths:**

*"Kathryn Bradbury is a brilliant lawyer – and able to identify exactly what the legal problem is and how to address it."*

*"She provides a highly efficient and responsive service to her clients."*

*"She is thorough, considerate, great at analysis."*

**Tom Brett Young** of VWV is an immigration expert who comes recommended for his work with education sector clients. He advises universities and schools on a full range of issues, while also working with corporate groups on their immigration concerns.

**Strengths:**

*"Tom Brett Young is extremely capable and responsive."*

*"He has a great practical approach and great legal knowledge."*

**Emma Brooksbank** (see p.738) works with SMEs and clients in the higher education sector on all of their immigration needs. Sponsor licence applications are a notable strength, as are immigration appeals.

**Strengths:**

*"Emma is absolutely brilliant to deal with – she is always professional, but friendly and approachable too."*

*"Emma has been a great support to my team. I have always been happy with the advice and support received."*

**Jonathan Chaimovic** (see p.738) leads the Clyde & Co immigration team and is routinely instructed by businesses for Tier 2 sponsor licence issues. He is also adept at advising individuals, particularly senior executives, on applications to secure their immigration status in the UK.

**Strengths:**

*"Jonathan Chaimovic has always been there for us, and provides sound advice and support."*

*"He is outstanding in terms of his immigration knowledge."*

**John Dorney** of DWF offers extensive expertise in complex issues relating to Tier 2 sponsor licences and the transfer of overseas staff to the UK. He is also noted for his Brexit-related advice.

**Strengths:**

*"John Dorney is a pleasure to work with. He is knowledgeable, responsive and empathetic to business requirements."*

**Tracy Evlogidis** of Withers is called upon by businesses for sponsor licence applications and compliance-related advice. She also provides individual senior employees with tailored advice on their immigration status.

**Strengths:**

*"She is very efficient and professional."*

*"Tracy Evlogidis is superb."*

**Vanessa Ganguin** of Vanessa Ganguin Immigration Law is especially knowledgeable in the handling of immigration matters for entertainment industry clients. Her work includes securing Tier 5 creative worker visas, as well as providing sponsor licence compliance advice.

**Strengths:**

*"Vanessa Ganguin is very responsive and provides guidance in a timely manner."*

*"Vanessa is a 'go-to' lawyer on immigration matters. She is personal, thorough and ensures high service levels."*

*"She is thorough and meticulous in detail."*

**Kerry Garcia** of Stevens & Bolton has considerable experience acting for clients from the healthcare, technology, and food and beverage industries on business immigration matters. She regularly advises on right to work issues, and handles intra-company transfer applications as well as sponsor licence compliance support.

**Strengths:**

*"Kerry Garcia has a wealth of knowledge which she uses to deliver well-structured, commercially viable solutions."*

**Tanya Goldfarb** of Bindmans is highly regarded for her broad immigration business expertise that spans points-based system advice, global talent visa applications and right to work compliance.

**Strengths:**

*"Tanya Goldfarb is a fantastic lawyer – she has a lot of insight and is tenacious."*

**Joanna Hunt** of Fieldfisher continues to develop an impressive reputation in the immigration field. Her practice is broad and includes advising clients on sponsor licence issues following corporate restructures and changes in ownership.

**Strengths:**

*"Joanna Hunt is excellent. She is attentive and supportive but also aware of commercial constraints that businesses face."*

*"I have been thoroughly impressed and reassured through my dealings with Joanna Hunt. She is knowledgeable, client-focused and operates in a calm and supportive manner."*

**Graeme Kirk** heads the immigration department at Ellisons Solicitors. He offers a wealth of experience in exceptional talent visa applications and sponsor licence applications, among other immigration-related issues.

**Gary McIndoe** of Latitude Law is an immigration specialist with extensive experience acting for businesses in a range of industries. He often handles Tier 1 Entrepreneur and Global Talent applications and provides right to work compliance support.

**Strengths:**

*"Gary McIndoe is a brilliant lawyer."*

**Gillian McKearney** of Fieldfisher has extensive expertise in all aspects of business immigration, including assisting with work visas, business visitors, compliance advice and strategy, European applications and right to work checks. Clients span in scale, from individual entrepreneurs to large multi-national corporations.

**Strengths:**

*"Gillian McKearney is a pleasure to work with, and is always extremely helpful. We feel confident in her abilities and knowledge."*

*"She thinks deeply and widely to provide the best solutions, and is also commercial and efficient."*

*"She is always responsive and helpful, and the advice provided is clear and actionable."*

**Flora Mewies** of Ward Hadaway has expertise in a range of business immigration matters including sponsor licence management and Indefinite Leave to Remain applications. She is also well versed in EU-related immigration matters.

**Anne Morris** is a founder of DavidsonMorris and heads the Corporate Immigration department. She handles a diverse range of business immigration matters, from sponsor licence management and compliance to Tier 4 visa and Indefinite Leave to Remain applications. She is particularly popular among international clients in the sports and entertainment sectors.

**Strengths:**

*"Anne Morris is always very professional and provides an excellent service."*

**Diana Okoeva** is head of department at Clintons. She frequently advises high-profile clients in the entertainment industry on commercial immigration matters, including intra-country transfers of staff between the USA and the UK.

**Strengths:**

*"Diana Okoeva always finds a creative and practical solution for her clients, and is a joy to work with."*

**James Perrott** of Mayer Brown is a highly experienced immigration expert advising private and corporate clients from a range of sectors on European immigration issues, as well as UK-inbound matters. He also handles permanent residence, naturalisation applications and Global Talent visas.

**Strengths:**

*"James Perrott is excellent."*

**Yuichi Sekine** is dual qualified in the UK and US and heads Bird & Bird's business immigration team in London. He advises on a range of business immigration matters, including post-Brexit requirements and sponsor licence applications and compliance.

**Strengths:**

*"Yuichi Sekine is a true subject matter expert."*

**Anushka Sinha** of Deloitte Legal advises corporates and individuals on a range of business immigration issues. She ably guides clients through the points-based immigration system and has notable experience working with US-based clients.

A long-standing leader in immigration law, **Philip Trott** of Vanessa Ganguin Immigration Law advises on the full gamut of immigration issues, from sponsor licence applications to matters regarding Tier 2 visas. He represents a diverse list of clients including international companies, charities and non-profit organisations.

**Strengths:**

*"Philip Trott is an excellent lawyer."*

## UK-wide Human Rights, Asylum and Deportation

Immigration Human Rights, Asylum and Deportation
<b>Leading Firms</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Bindmans LLP
Birnberg Peirce
Wesley Gryk Solicitors LLP
Wilson Solicitors LLP
<b>Band 2</b>
Bates Wells
Duncan Lewis Solicitors
Elder Rahimi
Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI)
Luqmani Thompson & Partners
TRP Solicitors
<b>Band 3</b>
Kingsley Napley LLP
Laura Devine Immigration
<b>Senior Statespeople</b>
<b>Senior Statespeople:</b> distinguished older partners
Hanley Michael <i>Wilson Solicitors LLP</i>
<b>Leading Individuals</b>
<b>Star individuals</b>
Stanley Alison <i>Bindmans LLP</i>
<b>Band 1</b>
Barnden Tim <i>Bates Wells</i>
Barratt Liz <i>Bindmans LLP</i>
Burgess Nicola <i>Greater Manchester Immigration Aid (ORL) ◇</i>
Davies Matthew <i>Wilson Solicitors LLP</i>
Elder Annette <i>Elder Rahimi</i>
Hossain Toufique <i>Duncan Lewis Solicitors*</i>
Hunter Alison <i>Wesley Gryk Solicitors LLP*</i>
Luqmani Jawaid <i>Luqmani Thompson &amp; Partners</i>
O'Leary Barry <i>Wesley Gryk Solicitors LLP*</i>
Routledge Sonia <i>Birnberg Peirce</i>
Vnuk Stefan <i>Duncan Lewis Solicitors*</i>
<b>Band 2</b>
Baxter Diana <i>Wesley Gryk Solicitors LLP*</i>
Cohen Emma <i>Bindmans LLP</i>
Gonzalez Ana <i>Wilson Solicitors LLP</i>
Vasisht Anita <i>Wilson Solicitors LLP</i>
<b>Band 3</b>
Aydeed Ahmed <i>Duncan Lewis Solicitors*</i>
Dhanabalasingam Jana <i>York Solicitors (ORL) ◇</i>
Haslam Roberta <i>Bindmans LLP</i>
Leskin Nigel <i>Birnberg Peirce</i>
McLoughlin Sean <i>TRP Solicitors*</i>
Naqvi Syed <i>ITN Solicitors (ORL) ◇</i>
Packer James <i>Duncan Lewis Solicitors*</i>
Patsalos Maria <i>Mishcon de Reya LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
<b>Star associates</b>
Davis Alice <i>Bindmans LLP</i>
Evans Abigail <i>Doyle Clayton (ORL) ◇</i>
Gbikpi Nath <i>Islington Law Centre (ORL) ◇</i>
<b>Associates to watch</b>
Choudhury Enny <i>Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants</i>
Kett Lewis <i>Duncan Lewis Solicitors*</i>
Oldman Oliver <i>Kingsley Napley LLP</i>
Parker Jen <i>Bindmans LLP</i>
Piletska Alex <i>Turpin &amp; Miller (ORL) ◇</i>
Savjani Mala <i>Wilson Solicitors LLP</i>
Townley Imogen <i>Wilson Solicitors LLP</i>

\* Indicates individual with profile.

◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

**Band 1****Bindmans LLP**

**What the team is known for** Bindmans offers an exceptional immigration practice that provides advice across matters of asylum, human rights and nationality law. It advises a number of leading charities and not-for-profit groups as well as assisting local authorities in relation to children in care. The firm stands out for its work on domestic violence and trafficking. The team routinely appears in complex cases before the First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal.

**Strengths**

"Bindmans are fantastic. They have been market leaders for a long time."

"They do incredible work, especially in relation to wider human rights matters."

"The professionalism, client care and attention to detail of the team is absolutely fantastic. They deal with complex legal issues with absolute authority and expertise."

**Notable practitioners**

Co-head of department **Alison Stanley** enjoys a stellar reputation for her work in sophisticated asylum and extradition cases. She is particularly well versed in LGBT+ immigration issues and cases involving individuals with mental health conditions.

**Strengths:** "Alison Stanley is a remarkable lawyer." "She is a legend in the immigration and asylum field. She is a standout individual and very impressive." "Alison is a powerhouse of human rights work." **Liz Barratt** is co-head of the department and a go-to for complex matters involving nationality law and citizenship, particularly those involving SIAC. She has considerable experience handling asylum claims and third country removals under the Dublin III regulation. **Strengths:** "Liz is extremely experienced and very attentive to detail in complex nationality cases."

"She is a fantastic strategic litigator." "Liz is absolutely fantastic. She is a great asset to the UK's legal industry, especially in the immigration sector. She is a really strong and important voice and believes in the highest standard of client care and fairness." **Emma Cohen** is instructed in a wide range of immigration matters including complex deportation and human rights cases. She frequently acts for vulnerable clients, including children and young adults who have been in care and LGBT+ asylum seekers. **Strengths:** "Emma is composed and efficient." "She is a fantastic lawyer." "Emma provides an excellent service – she is highly communicative, empathetic, professional and thorough."

**Roberta Haslam** is experienced in a range of immigration issues and regularly appears for individuals seeking to challenge Home Office policy and decision-making. She is well known for her prowess in human rights and asylum cases, particularly those relating to Article 8 ECHR. **Strengths:** "Roberta is a safe pair of hands. She acts in the best interest of vulnerable clients and helps support them through the immigration process." "I am extremely impressed by Roberta's knowledge, strategic thinking and organisation. She works at a high level." "Roberta is a meticulous lawyer with a very human touch."

**Jen Parker** is experienced in all types of immigration applications. She has particular expertise in complex asylum and human rights claims as well as complex nationality applications. **Strengths:** "Jen is very hard-working. She really wants to get good results for her clients

and is always willing to learn." "Jen Parker is one of the best lawyers I have ever worked with; I highly rate her."

**Alice Davis** is a seasoned immigration solicitor with strong expertise in asylum, deportation and extradition matters. She is particularly adept at advising victims of torture. **Strengths:** "Alice is extremely knowledgeable and provides clear advice leading to successful outcomes for the client." "She is absolutely fantastic in supporting other lawyers. She is always available and responsive." "Alice is at the top of her game. She is really excellent at building relationships with her clients and is a very impressive lawyer."

**Birnberg Peirce**

**What the team is known for** Birnberg Peirce is a widely respected firm with a sterling reputation for its ability to represent privately funded and legal aid-funded individuals who are facing deportation or detention, and those seeking asylum. The firm is highlighted for its command of matters relating to SIAC proceedings.

**Strengths**

"Birnberg Peirce are very well known for their complex security work. They do an excellent job."

"They are a fantastic firm, particularly on immigration cases with a national security element."

"Birnberg Peirce is a very good legal practice."

**Notable practitioners**

**Sonia Routledge** is a senior solicitor with a leading reputation in the field of immigration. She has expertise in a broad range of human rights, asylum and deportation issues. **Strengths:** "Sonia is an exceptional and very dedicated practitioner." "She is a wonderful lawyer and a real expert." **Nigel Leskin** has a strong practice in immigration with a focus on asylum, nationality and citizenship. He often draws on skills as a criminal defence solicitor to assist in immigration matters.

**Wesley Gryk Solicitors LLP**

**What the team is known for** Wesley Gryk Solicitors is a boutique firm known for its expertise across the full gamut of immigration law. The firm houses a team of high-quality lawyers whose immigration work covers matters pertaining to civil liberty and human rights law, and surrogacy and adoption matters. It focuses on private immigration work for children, families and other vulnerable individuals. The team is well versed in EEA free movement issues.

**Strengths**

"Wesley Gryk's client service is excellent, and the team are highly effective and responsive."

"Their lawyers are highly professional, cooperative and friendly."

"Wesley Gryk Solicitors is a fantastic firm."

**Work highlights** Wesley Gryk Solicitors represented several vulnerable Ukrainian families, both inside and outside the UK, on how they can apply for protection in the UK following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

**Notable practitioners**

**Alison Hunter** (see p.738) is an expert in European free movement matters, especially those relating to families and children. She is also routinely instructed in complex nationality cases involving children adopted overseas by British citizens. **Strengths:** "Alison knows everything there is to know about inter-country adoption. She is very reassuring with clients, particularly when cases become complicated." "She is absolutely fantastic." "Alison is an incredibly good

lawyer with a lot of experience. She puts it into practice, both in case work and in her wider policy focus."

**Barry O'Leary** (see p.738) is a pre-eminent immigration partner with significant experience in EU and human rights law. He is highly valued for his successes with family, partnership, international surrogacy and sexual identity cases. **Strengths:** "Barry is a very knowledgeable and talented lawyer." "He is a very impressive lawyer." "Barry is one of the most outstanding immigration lawyers of the current generation." "His understanding of the interaction between hideously complex bodies of immigration law and the way that the Home Office works at policy level means that he provides unsurpassed service to clients." **Diana Baxter** (see p.737) is highly regarded for her work on personal immigration. She frequently acts for children and vulnerable adults in complex asylum and leave to remain applications. **Strengths:** "Diana Baxter is amazing and excellent in every way, from listening, responding and understanding a client's case to putting it forward to the Home Office and tribunals." "She is a star lawyer in the ascendant." "Diana is exceptionally bright. She is not afraid to give clients tough advice, and she delivers it clearly and sympathetically."

### Wilson Solicitors LLP

**What the team is known for** Wilson Solicitors advises both self-funded and legal aid clients across the whole spectrum of immigration law, including asylum, trafficking and human rights cases. The firm is especially notable for its work for vulnerable refugees including victims of religious persecution. It advises on cases before courts at all levels of the domestic system, including SIAC.

#### Strengths

"Wilson Solicitors provides an excellent and professional service."

"The team at Wilsons stands out because of their top knowledge, their expertise and their dedication to the cases they work on."

"They always go the extra mile to ensure successful outcomes for their clients."

"Wilson Solicitors is one of the best firms in the immigration market. They are leaders in this field."

**Work highlights** Wilson Solicitors successfully assisted a female apostate from Iran with an application for refugee status.

#### Notable practitioners

**Michael Hanley** is a leading immigration practitioner noted for his expertise in complex asylum and nationality cases. He often acts for vulnerable individuals, including victims of trafficking. **Strengths:** "Michael is highly regarded in the market." Managing partner **Matthew Davies** advises on an array of immigration matters from asylum and human rights cases to Brexit-related issues. He has a diverse client list and acts for both local authorities and private individuals. **Strengths:** "Matthew is one of the leading lights in the immigration world. He is so experienced, knowledgeable, collegiate and very generous with his time." "He is fantastic." **Ana Gonzalez** is an internationally recognised expert in gender and sexuality-based asylum claims. She has extensive expertise in representing individuals from vulnerable, marginalised client groups. **Strengths:** "Ana is a very impressive and enthusiastic practitioner." "What makes Ana different from competitors is that her job is also a vocation; as a result she engages with her clients professionally and on a human level, with empathy, which is so important in immigration cases." "As well as being committed to the client, Ana does a lot of work for LGBTQI migrants above and beyond the case itself. She works to make

the law better." Head of department **Anita Vasish** formerly worked in Amnesty International's legal office before qualifying as a solicitor. She is particularly experienced in complex national security matters relating to the Middle East and Chechnya, including SIAC cases. **Strengths:** "Anita is one of the best solicitors I have ever seen." **Mala Savjani** advises on the full range of immigration applications. She assists clients with complex appeals and judicial reviews, and has particular expertise in retained EEA law. **Strengths:** "Mala is extremely competent, bright and knowledgeable. If there is a solution to be found, she will find it." "She is a real name and is definitely one to watch." "Mala is incredibly bright. She leaves no stone unturned and is very client-focused." **Imogen Townley** specialises in immigration-related judicial review applications and asylum law. **Strengths:** "Imogen is an impressive fighter for her clients. She advocates very effectively and never gives up." "She is incredibly diligent and dedicated." "Imogen's technical knowledge is excellent. She is definitely one to watch."

### Band 2

#### Bates Wells

**What the team is known for** Bates Wells is an experienced group that advises on asylum and human rights claims, family immigration and naturalisation applications. The team has notable experience in Article 8 ECHR claims for EEA nationals and their spouses or families. The firm's lawyers routinely advise vulnerable refugees including care leavers and individuals at risk of persecution on the basis of sexual orientation.

#### Strengths

"Bates Wells are a fantastic firm."

"The team are responsive, well supported and have a clear vision of what needs to be done."

"Their lawyers are competent and efficient."

#### Notable practitioners

**Tim Barnden** is a recognised leader for personal immigration work, receiving accolades for his representation of spouses and dependants in particular. He has a wealth of knowledge in human rights, asylum and citizenship matters. **Strengths:** "Tim is very personable, bright and great to work with." "He is an absolutely fantastic solicitor." "Tim provides a great service. He is amazingly skilled."

#### Duncan Lewis Solicitors

**What the team is known for** Duncan Lewis Solicitors is particularly well known for its work on behalf of legal aid clients, including vulnerable individuals such as LGBT+ asylum seekers and those with mental health conditions. The firm is active across the spectrum of human rights-related immigration cases, including unlawful detention challenges and leave to remain applications. The team routinely appears before the higher domestic courts, including the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

#### Strengths

"Duncan Lewis is a very good firm."

"Duncan Lewis is very well known in the human rights, asylum and deportation field."

"Duncan Lewis survey the wider legal environment, allowing them to succeed and get test cases. This gives them an edge."

**Work highlights** Duncan Lewis Solicitors acted in the case of KTT, a Vietnamese victim of modern slavery, who challenged the refusal of the Home Secretary to grant her leave while she pursued an asylum claim.

#### Notable practitioners

**Toufique Hossain** (see p.738) leads Duncan Lewis Solicitors' public law and immigration department. He has extensive experience in high-profile judicial review proceedings involving immigration detention practices. Hossain is also adept at handling leave to remain applications, with recent work for individuals affected by the Windrush scandal and LGBT+ asylum seekers. **Strengths:** "Toufique is a leader in the industry. There is no one else like him in the legal aid field. He has brought so many landmark pieces of litigation that have changed immigration law." "He is a bold and bright litigator who is prepared to pick up the important challenges and is prepared to do the work at the coalface." "Toufique has fantastic strategic sense. He can identify and progress important strategic points." **Stefan Vnuk** (see p.739) is noted for his expertise in human rights and unlawful detention cases. He often appears in the highest courts including the Court of Appeal and ECtHR. **Strengths:** "Stefan is absolutely fabulous. He is superb as a lawyer, humble and modest. He is on the top of his game." "He has colossal experience in immigration law, and he uses it to litigate effectively in the most complex of public law cases." "Stefan is a veteran in the immigration world. He is a really, really great lawyer." **Ahmed Aydeed** (see p.737) is routinely instructed in judicial reviews that challenge Home Office immigration detention policy. His clients often include vulnerable individuals, such as victims of trafficking and abuse, and individuals with mental health needs. **Strengths:** "Ahmed is the most well-regarded and experienced lawyer in the area of trafficking. He is developing the law in a really positive way." "He is an impressive lawyer." "Ahmed does fantastic strategic litigation work on trafficking. He has really moved the law forward in this area." **James Packer** (see p.739) represents the most vulnerable in society. He is regarded for his litigation prowess in the areas of unlawful detention, enforced removals and trafficking. Packer has extensive experience in the higher courts, including the Supreme Court and the ECtHR. **Strengths:** "James is exceptional in his ability and his reach." "He is a fantastic lawyer." "James is utterly fearless; he has really good judgement and is very astute." **Lewis Kett** (see p.738) continues to develop an impressive reputation in the field of immigration and frequently handles complex human rights, EU law and detention matters.

#### Elder Rahimi

**What the team is known for** Elder Rahimi represents privately funded and legal aid clients in asylum, human rights and nationality-related matters. The firm is recognised for its work on behalf of children and young people.

#### Notable practitioners

Founding partner **Annette Elder** has a strong reputation in the immigration space. Her broad practice encompasses human rights, asylum and nationality law. **Strengths:** "Annette Elder is a powerhouse and superstar in driving refugee protection in the area of immigration." "She is well known in the market and has a great reputation." "Annette is a great lawyer."

#### Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI)

**What the team is known for** The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants is a charity organisation with a strong legal offering, frequently advising asylum seekers and migrants on immigration-related claims and appeals. The organisation is well versed in handling cases involving vulnerable individuals and com-



plex elements relating to criminal convictions and mental health. It is often instructed in sophisticated judicial review proceedings challenging the actions and policies of the Home Office.

#### Strengths

*"JCWI has been an institution for decades. Their expertise is excellent."*

*"JCWI is brilliant!"*

*"Despite the funding issues facing legal aid and anti-immigration hostility that crops up in the UK, the JCWI has kept afloat and remains a stalwart. They're truly incredible."*

#### Notable practitioners

**Enny Choudhury** has a growing reputation in the immigration space. She is particularly active in assisting vulnerable individuals with applications for indefinite leave to remain. **Strengths:** *"Enny is very good. I have always been impressed with her analysis and commentary on the immigration field."*

### Luqmani Thompson & Partners

**What the team is known for** Luqmani Thompson & Partners offers specialist immigration expertise. The firm's lawyers expertly guide clients through the points-based system, deportation, human rights and asylum matters. The team is bolstered by considerable experience in judicial review and SIAC proceedings.

#### Strengths

*"Luqmani Thompson & Partners have a good reputation in the market."*

*"They are a very good firm."*

#### Notable practitioners

**Jawaid Luqmani** is a founding partner of Luqmani Thompson & Partners and brings deep experience to his representation of clients in immigration matters. **Strengths:** *"Jawaid has done amazing work over the years." "Jawaid knows that the work we do is not just about improving the client's life, but the life and process for all migrants." "He is an excellent solicitor."*

### TRP Solicitors

**What the team is known for** TRP Solicitors is a leading human rights practice renowned for its asylum and Article 8 work. It is frequently instructed on behalf of vulnerable individuals including victims of abuse. The firm continues to undertake a large amount of legal aid work.

#### Notable practitioners

**Sean McLoughlin** (see p.738) is a founding partner of the firm. His practice spans deportation, nationality, leave to remain and entry clearance issues, among others. He is also well versed in complex LGBT+ asylum claims. **Strengths:** *"Sean is experienced in the SIAC world." "He is very good and very experienced. He is at the top of his game."*

### Band 3

#### Kingsley Napley LLP

**What the team is known for** Kingsley Napley has a broad and sophisticated immigration offering. The firm has particular expertise in international protection law and regularly assists individuals subject to extradition with asylum claims. The team is noted for its discretion in servicing high-profile individuals.

#### Strengths

*"Kingsley Napley offers one of the largest collections of outstanding immigration specialists in the field."*

*"They have a good reputation for their private asylum work."*

#### Notable practitioners

**Oliver Oldman** has notable strength advising on asylum applications and appealing deportations. He is particularly active for vulnerable individuals.

**Strengths:** *"He is a fantastic solicitor." "Oliver is incredibly enthusiastic and pays great attention to detail. He is very impressive."*

#### Laura Devine Immigration

**What the team is known for** Laura Devine Immigration is recognised for its expertise across the immigration spectrum. The firm is well regarded for its ability to discreetly service high-profile individuals seeking asylum or immigration support relating to human rights.

#### Strengths

*"Laura Devine Immigration are extremely good with clients. They provide an incredibly high-quality service."*

*"The firm delivered a pleasant experience from the beginning to the very successful end."*

*"The lawyers at Laura Devine Immigration are very knowledgeable and experts in their field."*

**Work highlights** Laura Devine Immigration assisted a high-profile political dissident with advancing a delayed application for indefinite leave to remain based on having held refugee status for five years. The firm liaised with senior contacts in the Home Office to secure an urgent favourable decision for the client.

#### Notable practitioners

Sophie Barrett-Brown is a key contact.

### Other Ranked Lawyers

**Nicola Burgess** of Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit regularly represents vulnerable individuals in unlawful detention claims, appeals against deportation orders, and applications for indefinite leave to remain.

#### Strengths:

*"Nicola is really good, she is absolutely great."*

*"Nicola is an exceptional lawyer; she is really good with strategic litigation."*

**Jana Dhanabalasingam** of York Solicitors is recognised for his expertise in asylum, deportation and human rights cases. He has a particular focus on immigration matters relating to Sri Lankan clients.

Dhanabalasingam frequently assists clients in judicial review and court cases.

#### Strengths:

*"Jana is a very knowledgeable and competent immigration practitioner who provides an excellent service."*

*"He is very competent, always well prepared and delivers good results for his clients."*

*"Jana is very knowledgeable, efficient and a good communicator. He sees the bigger picture."*

**Abigail Evans** of Doyle Clayton is a recognised specialist in asylum, human rights and deportation cases. She routinely acts on behalf of families and local authorities in matters concerning vulnerable individuals, including adults and children with mental health conditions.

#### Strengths:

*"Abigail is excellent."*

*"She is a very good lawyer."*

**Nath Gbikpi** of Islington Law Centre has an active practice in immigration, asylum and nationality law, focusing on applications for leave to remain for both EEA and non-EEA nationals. She is frequently instructed in matters involving vulnerable clients, including children in care.

#### Strengths:

*"Nath's analysis of legal changes and how she articulates it really stands out. She is clearly someone who is marked out to be a thought leader in the area of immigration."*

*"Nath is fantastic. She is very committed and knowledgeable."*

*"She is incredible. Her star will shine very brightly over the next few years."*

Department head **Syed Naqi** of ITN Solicitors has an active immigration practice encompassing asylum, deportation and indefinite leave to remain applications. He regularly appears before the Upper Tribunal and Court of Appeal.

#### Strengths:

*"I highly recommend Syed."*

*"Syed is a creative thinker and a good solicitor."*

**Maria Patsalos** of Mishcon de Reya offers impressive expertise in asylum law. She focuses her practice on advising on human rights applications and discretionary leave applications.

#### Strengths:

*"Maria is a fantastic lawyer who is supremely well equipped to deal with complex cases. She has superb strategic understanding."*

*"She is an amazing individual and an even better lawyer."*

*"Maria does really good work and has a great reputation in the market."*

**Alex Piletska** of Turpin & Miller is a rising star in the immigration field. Her practice encompasses specialised human rights work, strategic litigation and complex Adult Dependent Relative cases.

#### Strengths:

*"Alex is an extremely intelligent and able solicitor."*

*"She has a real granular understanding of immigration and cares really deeply about her clients."*

*"Alex is one of the stars in immigration law."*

## UK-wide Personal

Immigration: Personal	
Leading Firms	
<b>Band 1</b>	
Bates Wells	
Bindmans LLP	
Laura Devine Immigration	
Wesley Gryk Solicitors LLP	
Wilson Solicitors LLP	
<b>Band 2</b>	
A Y & J Solicitors	
Gherson	
OTS Solicitors	
Leading Individuals	
<b>Band 1</b>	
Barnden Tim	Bates Wells
Barratt Liz	Bindmans LLP
Gonzalez Ana	Wilson Solicitors LLP
Hunter Alison	Wesley Gryk Solicitors LLP*
O'Leary Barry	Wesley Gryk Solicitors LLP*
Stanley Alison	Bindmans LLP
<b>Band 2</b>	
Baxter Diana	Wesley Gryk Solicitors LLP*
Bradbury Kathryn	Payne Hicks Beach LLP (ORL) ◇
Cohen Emma	Bindmans LLP
Harvey Jenny	Jenny Harvey Immigration (ORL) ◇
Lilley-Tams Mark	OTB Legal (ORL) ◇
Paramesvaran Muhunthan	Wilson Solicitors LLP
Rest Bryony	David Gray Solicitors (ORL) ◇
Skandachanmugarasan Malini	Doyle Clayton (ORL) ◇*
<b>Up-and-coming individuals</b>	
Luchowa Zeena	Laura Devine Immigration
<b>Associates to watch</b>	
Dilger Katie	Wesley Gryk Solicitors LLP
James Matthew	Bates Wells
Matharu Rupinder Kaur	MTG Solicitors (ORL) ◇
Wills Matthew	Laura Devine Immigration
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

## Band 1

## Bates Wells

**What the team is known for** Bates Wells is a leading personal immigration practice that advises clients on a broad range of privately funded immigration matters. The firm frequently represents individual foreign nationals, as well as the partners and families of British citizens, in applications for permanent residency, settled status and EEA family permits. It also offers experience in UK ancestry and naturalisation applications, as well as advice on the EU Settlement Scheme.

## Strengths

"Everyone at Bates Wells is cordial, conscientious and very responsive to enquiries."

"The team were always very responsive, understanding and helpful."

"Bates Wells help clients to obtain the best value for money. It isn't about maximum billing - they really focus on each client's individual needs."

## Notable practitioners

**Tim Barnden** heads the immigration department at Bates Wells. He is highly regarded for his expertise in a variety of personal immigration matters. Barnden regularly assists individuals, couples and families with permanent residence and naturalisation applications, as well as applications under the EU Settlement

Scheme. **Strengths:** "Tim is so knowledgeable and charming. He is an excellent lawyer with years of experience." "He is a fantastic lawyer who is great to work with." "Tim is in a class of his own. He is absolutely excellent." **Matthew James** advises clients on their applications for permanent residency. He is also well versed in all aspects of the EU Settlement Scheme. **Strengths:** "I have been very impressed with Matthew's representation at every stage of the immigration process." "Matt is clear, precise and friendly." "Matthew is a go-to lawyer. He is incredibly professional, courteous and very aware of the stress that lengthy immigration processes can cause for clients."

## Bindmans LLP

**What the team is known for** Bindmans boasts a leading immigration offering serving a broad base of clients including children and family members of British and settled people. The firm's other areas of strength include adoption and surrogacy, as well as 'stranded spouse' cases. The team is able to draw on the firm's wider expertise in EU, human rights, detention and deportation law, when advising on personal immigration matters.

## Strengths

"Bindmans do not use a steam hammer to crack nuts. Their transparency with legal fees and their expense structure is a standout strength."

"Bindmans are a standout firm in the immigration market."

"I have been very satisfied with Bindmans. My matter was handled in the best way possible, with every question answered and all deadlines met. I recommend them highly."

## Notable practitioners

Joint head of department **Liz Barratt** maintains a strong personal immigration practice. She stands out for her command of Brexit-related issues and for her advice to EEA nationals. **Strengths:** "Liz Barratt is an exceptionally intelligent solicitor with a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of immigration law. She is a top-notch legal brain." "She is wonderful." "Liz is excellent with everything. She is very professional, kind-hearted and has great communication skills." **Alison Stanley** is joint head of department and widely considered one of the foremost immigration experts in the UK. Her practice is comprehensive in advising clients on nationality issues, as well as on their efforts to obtain residency permits.

**Strengths:** "Alison is a brilliant lawyer. She is at the top of the field." "She is a legend in the immigration field." "Alison Stanley is a colossally effective litigator. She deals with complex cases for clients with great effectiveness." **Emma Cohen** covers all areas of immigration, asylum and nationality law including European law and deportation. She has particular interest and experience in complex immigration and nationality cases involving families and children including inter-country adoption, and she regularly writes court reports on immigration issues in family cases.

**Strengths:** "Emma is kind-hearted, professional and qualified. She gave me one of the best services I have ever experienced." "I would not hesitate to employ Emma's services in the future, and would recommend her to anyone requiring immigration legal support." "Emma Cohen is a delight to work with. She goes to bat for her clients."

## Laura Devine Immigration

**What the team is known for** Laura Devine Immigration is recognised by the market as a leading immigration firm with strong expertise across asylum, human rights, EU and personal immigration matters. It regularly assists both individuals and families with specific expertise advising elderly dependants, individuals who have been refused visitor visas, and overstayers.

## Strengths

"They're an excellent firm who handle complex matters seamlessly."

"Their client service has always been of a very high standard. The lawyers at the firm have always been very responsive and handled our expectations with a lot of kindness and patience."

**Work highlights** Laura Devine Immigration successfully assisted a client on a complex nationality challenge concerning the Home Office's policy on whether individuals born in the Aden Colony retained British nationality on independence.

## Notable practitioners

**Zeena Luchowa** has an active personal immigration practice encompassing complex nationality issues and settlement applications. **Strengths:** "Zeena is the best lawyer I have ever worked with. She is always on top of the situation and provides great guidance to her clients." "The interest of the client is always top priority at every step for Zeena." "I would wholeheartedly recommend Zeena for complex immigration matters that require an extensive understanding of the law and regulations." **Matthew Wills** advises on a range of personal immigration issues, including family immigration and Tier 1 applications. He also assists clients on appeal processes. **Strengths:** "Matthew Wills is highly intelligent, has excellent client care and is very dedicated to his cases." "Matthew is excellent at all levels." "He is an exceptional individual with a super set of communication and planning skills."

## Wesley Gryk Solicitors LLP

**What the team is known for** Wesley Gryk Solicitors is a market-leading immigration firm with broad expertise in nationality law, EU law and entry clearance applications for vulnerable individuals. The firm's clients include EEA nationals, families involved in international surrogacy, and students and overstayers. The team is also well known for its human rights and asylum expertise, and ability to handle 'stranded spouse' cases.

## Strengths

"The level of expertise demonstrated by Wesley Gryk Solicitors was exceptional. Their lawyers provided excellent guidance, and a deep understanding of the Home Office was used with good impact."

"The whole team were very efficient and a pleasure to deal with, ensuring our peace of mind at all times."

"Wesley Gryk are the first law firm I would ever recommend for an immigration issue because they don't overcomplicate things. I really rate them, and their clients get top-tier expertise."

**Work highlights** Wesley Gryk Solicitors successfully assisted a Global Talent migrant following an inadvertent period of accidental overstay.

## Notable practitioners

**Alison Hunter** (see p.738) is a pre-eminent immigration lawyer with an impressive track record in relation to European free movement issues and citizenship applications. She also has recognised exper-

tise in international adoption. **Strengths:** "Alison is an excellent lawyer, particularly on EU-related matters." "She is fantastic. She possesses a very good understanding on the intersection of immigration and family law." "Alison's attention to detail in the she work she undertakes is immaculate, and she takes great pride in achieving success for her clients." **Barry O'Leary** (see p.738) offers strong experience in complex family immigration matters including entry clearance applications and nationality issues arising from international surrogacy arrangements. He also has a wealth of expertise in human rights-related immigration claims. **Strengths:** "Barry is an excellent lawyer and a true expert in immigration law. I would highly recommend him for any immigration support." "It is an absolute pleasure to work with Barry. He is exceptionally talented, utterly trustworthy, generous-spirited and always made the right judgement on how to proceed forward with matters." "Barry is truly outstanding." **Diana Baxter** (see p.737) combines experience in immigration, nationality and asylum law. She often represents vulnerable individuals, including children in care and elderly family members, in leave to remain and citizenship applications. **Strengths:** "Diana works with the highest level of professionalism and experience. Her communication skills are outstanding, which allows for the greatest comfort of the client." "She is an outstanding lawyer. I am delighted with Diana's efficiency and her tenacity in getting the clients an excellent result." "Diana has a wonderful manner with clients that doesn't detract from the fact that she is super intelligent. She has great lateral thinking and creative skills, and brings nuanced intellect and compassion to the most difficult immigration cases." **Katie Dilger** focuses on personal immigration matters for families, spouses and unmarried partners. She is particularly adept at securing immigration rights under the EU Settlement Scheme, as well as indefinite leave to remain applications and UK ancestry cases. **Strengths:** "Katie knows the field well, understands the pressures that immigration matters puts on clients, and offers helpful solutions. We knew we were in good hands." "Katie is a great lawyer with a lot of experience."

### Wilson Solicitors LLP

**What the team is known for** Wilson Solicitors has an impressive team offering a wealth of experience across personal immigration. The firm is noted for its advice to EU nationals seeking settled status in the UK post-Brexit. It regularly works on applications for families for indefinite leave to remain, and on visit visas. The team is particularly adept at handling sophisticated judicial review proceedings.

#### Strengths

"All of the team at Wilson Solicitors have been first class, going above and beyond to help."

"There is no weak link in Wilsons. Every single solicitor and caseworker there is excellent."

"Their attention to detail is second to none, as is their knowledge of the law, but what really sets them apart is their dedication to their clients."

**Work highlights** Wilson Solicitors successfully assisted a Canadian national with a complex application to the EUSS under Surinder Singh provisions.

#### Notable practitioners

**Ana Gonzalez** stands out for her expertise in nationality law and EU free movement matters. Recent work includes applications for discretionary leave to remain and applications for British citizenship based on double descent. **Strengths:** "Ana Gonzalez is very knowledgeable, professional and empathetic."

"Ana is just outstanding. You feel in safe hands with her. Her client care on personal immigration matters is second to none. She offers an unmatched level of professionalism combined with humility." "Ana Gonzalez is very bright, truly committed to her practice and hard-working. She is a really safe pair of hands for any immigration case." **Muhunthan Paramesvaran** has a strong reputation for personal immigration matters and often advises on entry clearance and citizenship applications. He has an excellent track record in the higher courts and considerable experience in judicial review challenges.

### Band 2

#### A Y & J Solicitors

**What the team is known for** A Y & J Solicitors is a specialist immigration firm known for its work on complex personal immigration matters. The team acts for a range of private clients including highly skilled migrants, spouses and partners of British citizens and EEA nationals, and students. It is particularly adept at challenging Home Office refusals regarding applications for residence cards and leave to remain.

#### Strengths

"Lawyers at the firm are very thorough, knowledgeable and focused."

"The whole team are amazing. They are very professional and produce a high quality of work."

"They did such an amazing job at every step of the immigration process."

**Work highlights** A Y & J Solicitors assisted the spouse of a British citizen with a late-hour appeal to the First-tier Tribunal regarding the rejection of a spouse visa on financial requirement grounds.

#### Notable practitioners

Yash Dubal is a key contact.

#### Gherson

**What the team is known for** Gherson is recognised as a strong player in the personal immigration market. The firm handles the affairs of numerous high net worth clients and their families, and offers a proactive, discreet service.

#### Strengths

"Gherson's immigration offering is brilliant, particularly in unusual cases that require legal creativity."

"The firm does really, really good personal immigration work."

"Gherson is very well known for asylum work and for all aspects of personal immigration."

**Work highlights** Gherson successfully challenged the Home Office regarding a three-year delay to a citizenship application.

#### Notable practitioners

Roger Gherson and Adam Hoefel are key contacts.

#### OTS Solicitors

**What the team is known for** OTS Solicitors is a sought-after immigration team with a focus on human rights and personal immigration issues. The firm handles a plethora of sophisticated matters from citizenship deprivation cases to indefinite leave to remain applications. It represents a range of individuals from students to spouses and families.

#### Strengths

"All the lawyers at OTS are incredible. They provided very clear information and guidance."

"The team at OTS Solicitors were very diverse in expertise and culture, which makes it easier to relate with

them. They have exceptional customer service and are willing to deal with difficult cases."

"All members of the firm from the senior partners to the caseworkers are highly motivated and extremely competent. The level of expertise is uniformly high."

**Work highlights** OTS Solicitors acted for husband and wife Chinese nationals who came to the UK on a visitor visa in October 2020 and made applications to remain in the UK after their care home was closed in China. This matter involved an appeal against the Home Office's refusal of the application.

#### Notable practitioners

Oshin Shahiean and Teni Shahiean are key contacts.

### Other Ranked Lawyers

**Kathryn Bradbury** is head of department at Payne Hicks Beach. She has a mixed practice encompassing human rights, asylum and personal immigration matters. Her areas of focus include visa applications for spouses of British citizens and applications for settled status as an EU national.

#### Strengths:

"Kathryn Bradbury has a long-established reputation for excellence in all aspects of immigration law."

"She is a leading immigration lawyer. She has excellent client skills and a thorough knowledge of complex immigration matters."

"Kathryn is a brilliant lawyer. She is completely unflappable and provides a highly efficient responsive service to her clients."

**Jenny Harvey** of Jenny Harvey Immigration is a highly experienced immigration expert whose recent work has seen her advising EU nationals on applications for settled status and British nationality. Other areas of work include visa applications for individuals in relationships with British nationals.

#### Strengths:

"Jenny displayed a high level of understanding in her field, and was able to communicate in a knowledgeable and authoritative manner."

"We always felt that Jenny went above and beyond our expectations and always gave us the best possible advice and service. We would highly recommend her."

"Jenny Harvey's level of service is excellent."

**Mark Lilley-Tams** of OTB Legal is a seasoned immigration partner with significant expertise across personal immigration. He is best known for his work on nationality matters and often handles complex deprivation of citizenship cases, as well as judicial reviews.

#### Strengths:

"Mark is a knowledgeable lawyer with a strong global view of immigration."

"He is a professional, supportive and informative lawyer."

"Mark is a brilliant lawyer. He is very attentive, helpful and professional."

**Rupinder Kaur Matharu** is head of the immigration and public law practice at MTG Solicitors. She provides strategic advice on a broad range of immigration matters, including 1-5 Tier applications, visit visas and settlement scheme matters. She has represented clients in cases before the tribunals and higher UK and EU courts.

#### Strengths:

"Rupinder is wonderful. She provides unparalleled support and expertise in her field. She uniquely embodies compassion, expertise and ingenuity while being mindful of timings, cost and driving results."

"She works hard for her clients, ensuring that no stone is left unturned."

*"Rupinder is a reliable and professional solicitor."*

**Bryony Rest** of David Gray Solicitors stands out for her capabilities in family-related personal immigration matters. Her practice is extensive and includes work on applications for indefinite leave to remain and intra-country surrogacy proceedings.

**Strengths:**

*"Bryony is an exceptional lawyer who really understands how to support her clients. This is valuable*

*when dealing with an environment with ever-changing policy."*

*"I was highly impressed by Bryony's professionalism and empathetic approach."*

*"Bryony is a professional and personable lawyer."*

**Malini Skandachanmugarasan** (see p.739) of Doyle Clayton continues to advise on an array of personal immigration matters, including permanent residence applications to visa applications and complex nation-

ality cases. Her clients include families and vulnerable individuals.

**Strengths:**

*"Malini is at the top of her game."*

*"She is one to watch in the market."*

*"Malini is helpful, responsive and always able to help with any queries clients may have."*

## Scotland

Immigration
Leading Firms
Band 1
Burness Paull
Drummond Miller LLP
Morton Fraser
Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Brown David Drummond Miller LLP
Kerr Jamie Burness Paull
Moore Jacqueline Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP
Band 2
Fleming Ashley Harper Macleod LLP (ORL) ♦ *
Latta Fraser Latta & Co (ORL) ♦
McGill Grace Burness Paull
McWilliams Stuart Morton Fraser
Ndubuisi Humphrey Drummond Miller LLP
Up-and-coming individuals
Armstrong Janey Drummond Miller LLP *
Star associates
Vassiliou John Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP
Associates to watch
Weir Nicola Burness Paull
<small>* Indicates individual with profile.</small>
<small>♦ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</small>
<small>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</small>

### Band 1

#### Burness Paull

**What the team is known for** Burness Paull is a leading immigration outfit offering extensive expertise in commercial immigration matters. It has a focus on Tier 2 sponsor licences for international corporates. The team handles various types of visa applications for highly skilled migrants in sports, engineering and technology. The firm is well versed in providing strategic advice to corporate clients on the impact of Brexit.

**Strengths**

*"Burness Paull has a top immigration department."*

*"The team are very supportive and always ready to help when needed."*

*"The firm provides excellent communication at all times."*

**Work highlights** Burness Paull acted for Queen's Park Football Club in connection with the employment of a new Director of Football from the Netherlands, which included the navigation of the visa process.

**Notable practitioners**

**Jamie Kerr** has a leading immigration practice in

which he handles a broad range of issues from Tier 2 sponsor licence matters to advice on Brexit. He is frequently instructed by international corporate clients operating UK subsidiaries in the technology sector.

**Strengths:** *"Jamie is a top-tier immigration specialist, particularly for corporate, business or third sector clients."* *"He is a well-established lawyer in Scotland. He has a great name in the business immigration community."* **Grace McGill** brings great depth of experience to bear for her client base of companies, entrepreneurs and individuals. She sits on the Board of Trustees of the Immigration Law Practitioners Association. **Strengths:** *"Grace is a top-notch professional while also being a kind and thoughtful individual."*

*"She has lots of experience in this field."* **Nicola Weir** is particularly adept at representing technology companies in Tier 2 sponsor licence matters. **Strengths:** *"Nicola is a really experienced specialist."*

#### Drummond Miller LLP

**What the team is known for** Drummond Miller offers a distinguished immigration practice with notable expertise in personal and corporate immigration law. The team boasts extensive experience in the industry, regularly acting for individuals and corporate clients in proceedings spanning the immigration field. The firm is a large player in the Scottish market with offices in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Its practitioners regularly handle sponsor licence applications and intra-company transfers as well as skilled worker visa proceedings.

**Strengths**

*"Drummond Miller has a highly experienced team, all of whom are extremely capable."*

*"The team at Drummond Miller are not just very knowledgeable but also bring care to their work. They are very patient, helpful and thoughtful in regards to clients' varying level of legal understanding."*

*"The team are experts in this area. They are knowledgeable concerning both law and practice."*

**Notable practitioners**

Head of department **David Brown** has a diverse practice that spans both business and personal immigration. Recent work includes advising individuals on entry clearance refusals and visa applications.

**Strengths:** *"David is an absolutely first-class lawyer and gentleman. His knowledge is second to none."* *"He is a really brilliant immigration lawyer."* *"David provides excellent leadership. He has a very effective ability to present legal issues to courts, practitioners, clients and the public."* **Humphrey Ndubuisi** is noted for his skilful handling of a range of procedures, often handling complex litigation before the First-tier and Upper Tribunals on behalf of clients. **Strengths:**

*"Humphrey has a very good knowledge of the complex and ever-changing field of immigration law."* *"The thing that stands out most is his calm demeanour. He always has a smile and reassuring words."* *"Humphrey is very knowledgeable; he is very good with appeals and complicated cases."* *"He is a great technical lawyer."* **Janey Armstrong** (see p.737) has notable experience handling a range of immigration proceedings, covering asylum appeals as well as personal and business immigration matters. **Strengths:** *"Janey is caring, smart and responsive. You always know you are in safe hands."* *"She is a very good lawyer."* *"Janey is an excellent lawyer with a real understanding of the special needs and legal issues concerning EU migrants."*

#### Morton Fraser

**What the team is known for** Morton Fraser has a strong immigration team that advises high-profile UK companies on matters such as relocation, visa applications and audits. It assists individuals seeking a variety of personal immigration services. The team commonly represents those in the education and travel and leisure sectors, as well as charity and public sector clients.

**Strengths**

*"Morton Fraser's attentiveness and responsiveness was perfect."*

*"The team's client service was strong on all counts. They were extremely responsive and often one step ahead."*

*"Morton Fraser are always happy to go the extra mile for clients."*

**Work highlights** Morton Fraser prepared visa applications for incoming and existing Skyscanner employees.

**Notable practitioners**

**Stuart McWilliams** is head of Morton Fraser's immigration practice. He works with both individuals and businesses on complex immigration matters across a full range of visa categories, including Tier 2 and Tier 5. His recent work includes advising education clients, as well as public sector groups. **Strengths:** *"Stuart's service is outstanding."* *"His professionalism is outstanding. He achieves results and, importantly, cares about his clients."* *"Stuart is an absolute pleasure to work with. He provides expert advice with prompt and effective communication and an affable demeanour."*

#### Shepherd and Wedderburn LLP

**What the team is known for** Shepherd and Wedderburn offers a strong immigration team with experience across the full spectrum of immigration law, from visa and residency applications for individuals

to sponsor licence applications for corporates. The firm is also known for its prowess in complex asylum, deportation and nationality matters.

#### Strengths

"Shepherd and Wedderburn's immigration team are across the detail and prominent in the field. They are among the best I have come across in Scotland. Their breadth and depth is sector-leading."

"Everyone I worked with was affable and knowledgeable about the subject. From the people who answer the phones to the experts, this group has professionalism, kindness and dedication."

"I was very impressed with the level of expertise at the firm. The lawyers were very competent in what they do and aware of the procedures."

**Work highlights** Shepherd and Wedderburn assisted a global video game development company with several skilled worker visas and sponsor licence compliance training.

#### Notable practitioners

**Jacqueline Moore** has a highly regarded practice covering human rights, personal and business immigration issues. She has an impressive track record in

Tier 2 sponsor licence matters and complex deportation cases. **Strengths:** "Jacqueline is very experienced, competent, well regarded and good to work with." "She is truly an expert in the field. She goes above and beyond for her clients." "Jacqueline is on top of the law. She is very passionate about achieving outcomes for her clients." "She is tenacious and leaves no stone unturned. She fights hard and never lets up on passion." **John Vassiliou** of Shepherd and Wedderburn is an experienced immigration practitioner with deep knowledge of ancestry, British citizenship criteria and complex adoption issues. He has represented clients at the Court of Session, the UK Supreme Court and the ECtHR. **Strengths:** "John is an exceptional solicitor. His knowledge of immigration law is encyclopedic, and his friendly, professional manner makes him an absolute pleasure to work with." "He is a highly experienced and highly valued expert solicitor who is at the absolute top end of the field." "John is a great lawyer and a great guy. He is responsive and incredibly knowledgeable, and has great relationships with counsel. He is a true pleasure to deal with and gets results."

#### Other Ranked Lawyers

**Ashley Fleming** (see p.738) of Harper Macleod has a growing reputation in the immigration space for her work on a range of issues including asylum claims for unaccompanied minors, complex EEA matters and complicated nationality issues. She also has extensive experience in complex judicial review proceedings.

#### Strengths:

"Ashley is really good, she is my go-to lawyer in Scotland."

"She is a really excellent lawyer with lots of experience."

"Ashley is fantastic, she is very good."

**Fraser Latta** of Latta & Co offers deep expertise in family and asylum immigration cases and in sponsor licence issues. He advises clients on complex judicial reviews.

#### Strengths:

"Fraser has a strong reputation in the immigration field. He is well respected."

"Fraser is a good immigration lawyer."

## Leaders' Profiles in Immigration

### ALLEN, Yvette

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, London

*Featured in Immigration (UK-wide)*

**Practice Areas:** Yvette Allen is a member of the firm's immigration and global mobility team. Yvette advises businesses of all sizes from a variety of sectors on the full range of UK immigration permissions as well as global immigration matters for the EMEA region. This includes prevention of illegal working, the points-based system, complex family and global talent applications and other UK employment-related immigration categories.

**Professional Memberships:** Yvette is an active member of the Economic Migration Subcommittee of the Immigration Law Practitioners Association; Chartered Legal Executive.

**Personal:** BPP Law School, England, 2017, LPC University of Plymouth, 2012, LL.B. (Hons)

### ARMSTRONG, Janey

Drummond Miller LLP, Edinburgh

*Featured in Immigration (Scotland)*

**Practice Areas:** Janey is a Partner in the Immigration Department and leads Drummond Miller's immigration team in Glasgow. She advises on all aspects of immigration, nationality and asylum law. With over a decade of experience in the field, Janey is renowned for having the skills and knowledge to find solutions to complex immigration problems. Since the end of EU free movement, she specialises in assisting corporate clients to secure sponsor licences and bring in talent from abroad to resolve labour and skill shortages. Her clients include private individuals and small family businesses to national companies across a number of sectors including finance, construction, hospitality, publishing and care as well as religious organisations. Janey regularly provides external training on immigration law and

has recently delivered seminars on the EU Settlement Scheme to immigration advisors, local authorities and third sector organisations.

**Career:** Janey joined Drummond Miller in 2010 and completed her traineeship with the firm. She then spent a year working for a firm specialising in asylum law before returning to Drummond Miller in 2014. She was assumed partner in 2018.

**Professional Memberships:** ILPA

### AYDEED, Ahmed

Duncan Lewis Solicitors, London

07825893044

aydeeda@duncanlewis.com

*Featured in Immigration (UK-wide)*

**Practice Areas:** Director/Solicitor: Ahmed Aydeed specialises in public law and human rights where he acts for refugees, trafficking and modern slavery victims in publicly funded (legal aid) challenges. He has led key challenges against the administrative detention of refugees, torture and trafficking victims, including his challenge to the Home Office's policy on detaining trafficking survivors in immigration detention. Ahmed has been at the forefront of the battle against the unlawful detention of migrants in the UK. As well as challenging the Home Office policy terminating all statutory support to slavery victims after 45 days, Ahmed's work has positively impacted the lives of countless victims of slavery and human trafficking. Cases: TN & US Detained Fast Track challenge in the Supreme Court NN & LP trafficking support challenge EDC data challenge Awards: -Highly commended Human Rights Lawyer of the Year -Law Society Excellence Awards 2020 -Marsh Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Fight Against Modern Slavery -Human Trafficking Foundation's Anti-Slavery Day Awards 2019 -Rising Star (Private Practice) Award -UK Diversity Legal Awards

2019 -Junior Lawyer of the Year -Law Society Excellence Awards 2017

**Professional Memberships:** Supervisory & Level 2 Immigration and Asylum Scheme ILPA.

### AZIZ, Tamana

Duncan Lewis Solicitors, London

2031141130

tamanaa@duncanlewis.com

*Featured in Immigration (UK-wide)*

**Practice Areas:** Director/Solicitor:

Tamana Aziz is a director within the business and private immigration department and handles a wide variety of immigration law cases, including business immigration under the Points Based System, advising high-net-worth and skilled individuals on extending Tier 2 visas, spousal application, and applications for British citizenship. Her expertise extends to handling complex appeals in the Immigration Tribunals, the High Court, Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court. These matters include deportation appeals and country guidance cases. Acting for both individuals and businesses, Tamana is highly experienced in assisting those with immigration applications under EU law. She regularly advises employers and offers bespoke training on compliance with the Home Office's 'Prevention of Illegal Working Regime' and how to use the online sponsorship management system. Due to the complex nature of her cases, Tamana receives significant press media attention and is frequently invited to appear on television, radio to advise and comment on legal issues. She was described as "an admirable solicitor and advocate" by the Court of Appeal in the case of HS Afghanistan where she represented her client before the Immigration Tribunal.

**Career:** Tamana joined Duncan Lewis in January 2018.

**Professional Memberships:** Level 2 Senior Caseworker Immigration and Asylum Scheme

### BAXTER, Diana

Wesley Gryk Solicitors LLP, London

0207 401 6887

diana@grykllaw.com

*Featured in Immigration (UK-wide)*

**Practice Areas:** Diana's practice covers a wide range of immigration, nationality and asylum law, with particular emphasis on complex nationality work, and Appendix FM and Article 8 applications and appeals for partners, children and parents. As part of her varied practice, Diana has successfully represented 'Windrush' clients, refugee children in France and Greece to reunite with family members in the UK, victims of transnational spouse abandonment and vulnerable children in local authority care.

**Career:** Prior to joining Wesley Gryk, Diana achieved a First Class BA in Oriental Studies (Chinese) from the University of Oxford (2004), following which she worked as a paralegal in Beijing. In 2006, Diana completed a MSc with Distinction in Development Studies at the London School of Economics, before undertaking further postgraduate study in Sociology at University of California, San Diego. Diana began working as a paralegal at Wesley Gryk in 2008, while studying for a Graduate Diploma in Law and Legal Practice Course, achieving Distinctions. Diana qualified as a solicitor in 2012 and became a partner in 2017.

**Professional Memberships:** Immigration Law Practitioners Association (ILPA) - regular tutor for courses on Appendix FM and nationality law.

**Publications:** "Immigration and Asylum Appeals - a Fresh Look", a report by Justice, 2018

**BROOKSBANK, Emma**

Freeths LLP, Leeds  
0845 166 6300  
emma.brooksbank@freeths.co.uk  
*Featured in Immigration (UK-wide)*

**Practice Areas:** Emma specialises in business immigration work and has over ten years' experience working with Russell Group universities and national and multi-national businesses. For many businesses navigating the immigration system is one of the only ways to secure the highly skilled, specialist employees they need to grow their business. The immigration system is however complex and ever changing and mistakes can cause delay and additional expense in securing vital recruitment. Emma works for clients of all sizes in both public and private sectors. She secures visas for clients looking to set up their business in the UK and secures sponsor licences for UK businesses intending to recruit from overseas. Her objective is always to make the immigration system work for Freeths' clients and their businesses. Emma advises businesses, the education and health sector on how to mitigate the impact of Brexit with a view to retaining their workforce. She also assists businesses to ensure they have strategies in place to achieve right to work compliance and to protect against the reputational and financial impact of the civil penalty regime. Emma is recognised by Chambers (2022 edition) as a Leading Individual.

**CHAIMOVIC, Jonathan**

Clyde & Co LLP, London  
020 7078 7008  
jonathan.chaimovic@clydeco.com  
*Featured in Immigration (UK-wide)*

**Career:** Jonathan has extensive experience of the full spectrum of UK inward Corporate Immigration matters, as well as the management of foreign processes, in conjunction with overseas offices and local correspondents. His corporate clients cover sectors including financial services, energy, online gaming, multimedia, construction and hospitality and also he represents Individuals.

**DE ATOUGUIA, Anita**

Doyle Clayton, London  
adeatougua@doyleclayton.co.uk  
*Featured in Immigration (UK-wide)*

**Practice Areas:** Anita practises both business and personal immigration and is the firm's Head of Immigration. Anita has specialised in immigration law since 2000 years and is one of the UK's leading immigration experts. She joined Doyle Clayton in 2012 to set up its Immigration service, having worked in the immigration practices of some of the UK's best known full service law firms including CMS and Lewis Silkin. Throughout her career, Anita has helped organisations (including law firms) set up and expand in the UK – getting the licences, sponsorships, visas and permissions needed to enable the people that they want as well as their families to work, live and also study in Britain. She has also helped many well-known entrepreneurs, investors, actors, celebrities and sports people as well their relations (including foreign husbands/wives/spouses, civil partners, fiancée(s), proposed civil partners, children and adult dependants) and personal advisors come to the UK, extend their stay – with many

remaining permanently (Indefinite Leave to Remain), be naturalised and become British citizens and UK passport holders. Anita has excellent multi-tasking skills and a keen eye for detail which enables her to provide her clients with a rounded service, including providing strategic advice on complex immigration issues. Her considerable network of contacts within the UK Home Office (built up from personally developing the relationships with UKVI over the years) ensures that, where required, clients have an expedited service and first-class treatment. Under Anita's leadership the firm's Immigration team has built a reputation for its "refreshingly straightforward" approach and is regularly described as "excellent" and "outstanding in a really complex area", and as having "more professional and expert staff than other firms".

**Career:** Qualified in South Africa as an Advocate of the High Court in August 2000. Specialist in Immigration Law since 2000. Qualified (converted to UK Solicitor qualification) in May 2008. CMS Cameron McKenna 2006 to 2007. Lewis Silkin 2007 to 2012. Joined Doyle Clayton in 2012.

**Professional Memberships:** Immigration Law Practitioners Association (ILPA). The Law Society.

**Publications:** Anita is regularly in the broadsheets including The Guardian as well as specialist legal press – most recently The In-House Lawyer discussing developments in the UK immigration system.

**FLEMING, Ashley**

Harper Macleod LLP, Glasgow  
44 20 7833 4433  
Ashley.Fleming@harpermacleod.co.uk  
*Featured in Immigration (Scotland)*

**Practice Areas:** Ashley specialises in immigration, asylum and nationality law and has extensive experience advising businesses and individuals on all aspects of UK immigration law having worked in this area since 2005. She is dual qualified in Scotland and England & Wales. Ashley regularly acts for businesses, providing strategic advice to corporate clients to assist with their business planning, most recently in relation to Brexit and sponsorship under the skilled worker route. She also represents clients in defending civil penalty notices for allegedly employing illegal workers. Ashley has significant experience of working with high-net-worth individuals and entrepreneurs. She also has particular expertise in obtaining endorsements for clients under the Global Talent Visa scheme. Ashley regularly assists clients with their family-based applications, EU Settlement Scheme applications and applications for naturalisation. She is often instructed to provide expert reports for the courts in care proceedings and acts for local authorities, providing advice and training in relation to children and young persons in care. Ashley is a regular trainer for the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association and writes on developments in immigration law.

**Professional Memberships:** Ashley is a member of the Law Society of England and Wales Immigration Law Committee.

**HOSSAIN, Toufique**

Duncan Lewis Solicitors, London  
07940 502 376  
toufiqueh@duncanlewis.com  
*Featured in Immigration (UK-wide), Administrative & Public Law (UK-wide)*

**Practice Areas:** Toufique is an expert in judicial review claimant cases in immigration, civil liberties and human rights matters before the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. He is recognised as a "fearless litigator", conducting high-profile group litigation challenging government policies and practices. He acts on behalf of individuals and NGOs in cases concerning unlawful detention and policies relating to vulnerable people. Notable Cases: 'SM v Lord Chancellor [2021] EWHC 418 ·Badmus v SSHD [2020] EWCA 657 ·R (CRA, CJO, CAS) v Lord Chancellor ·Detention Action v SSHD [2020] EWHC 732 ·FB & Anor v SSHD [2020] EWCA 1338 ·Hussein v SSHD [2018] EWHC 213 ·Morita & Ors v SSHD [2019] EWHC 758 ·TH and others [2016] EWCA Civ 815 ·Wasif v SSHD [2016] EWCA Civ 82 ·JS (Sudan) [2013] EWCA Civ 1378

**Career:** Toufique taught human rights and refugee law at the UN International School. He delivers training on immigration/public law issues and advocates human rights by speaking to the media to highlight the crucial role of legal aid in holding the executive to account and providing access to justice.

**Professional Memberships:** Immigration Law Advanced (Level 3) ILPA Board of Trustees – Article 1/Waging Peace

**HUNTER, Alison**

Wesley Gryk Solicitors LLP, London  
020 7401 0782  
ahunter@gryklaw.com  
*Featured in Immigration (UK-wide)*

**Practice Areas:** All areas of UK immigration and nationality law with particular emphasis on EU free movement law, international adoption law, applications for family members and global talent applications.

**Career:** Qualified in 1997 after training at Freshfields. Joined Wesley Gryk Solicitors in 1997 and became partner in 2006. Former visiting lecturer at Westminster University and University of Victoria, Canada.

**Professional Memberships:** Law Society; former Executive Committee Member of the Immigration Law Practitioners Association; former Management Committee Member of the Centre for Advice on Individual Rights in Europe and the London Detainee Support Group. Currently Co-Chair of the European Working Group of the Immigration Law Practitioners Association.

**Publications:** Contributor to the European Commissions report Freedom of Movement of Workers.

**Personal:** Educated in Switzerland, Germany and the UK. LLB with French Law (London); LLM in Human Rights Law (London). Maintains close links with German lawyers and academics working in the field of immigration.

**KETT, Lewis**

Duncan Lewis Solicitors, London  
2031141178  
lewisk@duncanlewis.co.uk  
*Featured in Immigration (UK-wide)*

**Practice Areas:** Solicitor: Lewis Kett is a public law solicitor specialising in refugee law and immigration detention. He specialises in developing strategic litigation, with his work focussing particularly on challenging the mistreatment of immigration detainees and the conditions in which they are held. Notable Cases: MA & BB v SSHD [2019] EWHC 1523 – Successful challenge of SSHD failure to institute a Public Inquiry into abuse of detainees at Brook House. Hussein v SSHD [2018] EWHC 213 – Lock-in regime at Brook House constituted indirect discrimination to Muslim detainees forced to pray in conditions contrary to Art 9/14 ECHR. Medical Justice + Ors v SSHD [2017] EWHC 2461 – Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention policy found to be unlawful owing to SSHD's decision to restrict definition of torture to only that which was State-inflicted (for purposes of identifying vulnerability and eligibility for release). Awards: ·Newcomer Award, LALY Awards 2018 ·Finalist Human Rights Solicitor of the Year, Law Society Excellence Awards 2019 ·Finalist Rising Star, British Legal Awards 2019 ·The Times 'Lawyer of the Week', April 2016

**Career:** Lewis qualified in 2016 and joined the firm in 2012.

**Professional Memberships:** Accredited IAAS Level 2 Supervisor ILPA

**MCCLOUGHLIN, Sean**

TRP Solicitors, Birmingham  
0121 616 4700  
SMcCoughlin@trpsolicitors.co.uk  
*Featured in Immigration (UK-wide)*

**Practice Areas:** Sean's caseload includes a broad range of immigration and human rights cases, including deportation, entry clearance, nationality and leave to remain applications and appeals, unlawful detention claims and Judicial Review.

**Career:** Sean is a founding partner of The Rights Partnership in 2003, and currently Director of TRP Solicitors, having been working in the immigration and asylum law field since 1996 and qualified as a solicitor in 1999. In 2008, Sean was short-listed as a finalising for the Legal Aid Immigration Lawyer of the Year Award. Sean is also Law Society Level 3 accredited.

**O'LEARY, Barry**

Wesley Gryk Solicitors LLP, London  
0207 401 6887  
barry@gryklaw.com  
*Featured in Immigration (UK-wide)*

**Practice Areas:** All areas of UK immigration and nationality law with particular emphasis on: applications for family members, human rights (especially Article 8 of the ECHR), international surrogacy and adoption, and applications on behalf of individuals who fear persecution because of their sexual identity.

**Career:** Qualified in 1997, joined Wesley Gryk Solicitors in January 2000, became a partner in October 2006.

**Professional Memberships:** Director of Micro Rainbow; ILPA.

**Publications:** Author of the immigration law chapter in the publication: 'Surrogacy Law, Practice and Policy in England and Wales.' Author of the immigration chapter of the Law Society Publication "Civil Partnership – the Law in Practice"; Co-author of 'International Surrogacy Arrangements', Family Law Journal.

**Personal:** Born Birmingham, 10 November 1970; educated at: Solihull School; Selwyn College, Cambridge University; and College of Law, London.

**PACKER, James**

Duncan Lewis Solicitors, London  
020 7797 7500  
shaheen.rahman@1cor.com

*Featured in Immigration (UK-wide)*

**Practice Areas:** Director/Solicitor James Packer litigates across a broad range of areas relating to immigration, asylum and human rights. He regularly conducts test cases at the highest level concerning issues that involve; access to the Courts, unlawful detention, enforced removals from the United Kingdom, and challenges to decisions to refuse legal aid. James has extensive experience of cases which have been decided in the Administrative Court, Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court, and he has also brought successful challenges to the European Court of Human Rights. James has experience across the board in challenging detention on all sorts of bases. Additionally, he has brought innumerable challenges to detention based upon claims for asylum and trafficking issues. James is frequently brings technical challenges to the powers of a court, including: •Chelvan v Upper Tribunal •Abdulhamid & Ors Other notable cases:

JM (Zimbabwe) [2018] EWCA Civ 218 ZA (Iraq) [2015] EWCA Civ 16 Seherwet [2015] EWCA Civ 1141 Gudanavicine [2014] EWCA Civ 352 Odelola [2009] UKHL 25

**Career:** Joined Duncan Lewis, 2002 Appointed as a Director of Public Law, 2008.

**Professional Memberships:** Solicitor Advocate – Higher Rights of Audience (civil) Level 3 (Advanced) Immigration & Asylum Scheme Administrative Court User Group ILPA

**SKANDACHANMUGARASAN, Malini**

Doyle Clayton, London  
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*Featured in Immigration (UK-wide)*

**Practice Areas:** Malini is a partner in the Immigration team and leads the firm's growing personal and private client immigration practice. She is one of the UK's leading immigration lawyers advising both organisations and individuals and specialising in UK immigration law, Nationality law and European law for over a decade. The Legal 500 marks her out as a Next Generation Partner, and Who's Who Legal as a Future Leader "providing the right solutions" to complex immigration issues. She is also ranked by Chambers for her Personal Immigration work. Her clients range from financial institutions

and UK start ups to high net worth individuals, senior executives and international families. In addition to her considerable experience in business immigration with a focus on companies looking to set up in the UK, Malini day to day practice involves regularly advising on personal immigration assisting private clients with all UK immigration applications to the point of British Citizenship. Her practice has a particular emphasis on applications based on partnership, family and private life, human rights and discretionary leave outside the Immigration Rules.

**Career:** Qualified in 2007. Specialist in Immigration Law since 2007. Joined Doyle Clayton in 2020 as a Legal Director. Promoted to Partner in January 2022.

**Professional Memberships:** Immigration Law Practitioners Association (ILPA). International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA).

**Publications:** Malini regularly contributes to publications including LexisNexis and provides legal commentary in the general media including The Guardian and LBC Radio.

**VNUK, Stefan**

Duncan Lewis Solicitors, London  
0203 1141158  
stefanv@duncanlewis.com

*Featured in Immigration (UK-wide)*

**Practice Areas:** Solicitor: Public law solicitor Stefan Vnuk acts in all areas of immigration, asylum, and human rights law, specialising in complex cases in the higher courts, including the Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights. Stefan is a Level 3 Advanced Caseworker under the Law Society's Immigration and Asylum Accreditation Scheme which demonstrates his high level of knowledge and experience in immigration law; there are only a small number of immigration practitioners who hold this quality mark. Supreme Court: Robinson [2019] UKSC 11: relating to the interpretation of rights of appeal and fresh claims; Nouazli [2016] UKSC 16: relating to the UK's power to detain EU nationals and discrimination; O [2016] UKSC 19, relating to detention of mentally ill persons and Home Office policy. ECHR: VM v UK (Application no. 49734/12) SMM v UK (Application no. 77450/12) VM v UK (No 2) (Application no. 62824/16)

**Career:** Stefan qualified in 1992 and joined Duncan Lewis in 2018.

**Professional Memberships:** Stefan is a member of the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA) and is an Advanced Caseworker (Level 3) under the Law Society's Immigration and Asylum Accreditation Scheme.